

Hafa Adai!

CHCC monitoring new strain. **PAGE 2**

Yumul wants casino to succeed, resolve IPI's issues. **PAGE 5**

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CUI, IPI ARE FOUND IN CONTEMPT 1-week stop-work order vs IPI

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has ordered Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to cease operations and all construction work for a week—except for the



Mangloña

department working on payroll and security—after ruling in favor of the U.S. Department of Labor in its petition to find IPI and its officials in contempt.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Mangloña found IPI and its board chair, Cui Li Jie, in contempt but did not push through with her threat to issue a

See 1-WEEK on Page 4

Feb. 5 is new travel bubble launch date

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority's Travel Bubble Committee announced that they have

See FEB. 5 on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Jan 21, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,521	0	7,521
Recovered	7,274	0	7,274
Active	119	0	119
Deaths	128	0	128
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			110,065

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	129	0	129
Traced via Travel Screening	103	0	103
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			155

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Biden appeals for unity to take on crises



Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th president of the United States by Chief Justice John Roberts as Jill Biden holds the Bible during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021.

AP

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER and ALEXANDRA JAFFE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States, declaring that "democracy has prevailed" and summoning American

See BIDEN on Page 4

GRASS FIRE

Government buildings on Capitol Hill are engulfed in thick black smoke yesterday afternoon following a raging grass fire just behind the Miller Estates.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

See story on Page 4

No IPI lawyer appears at CCC status conference

» CCC board prevents IPI from appearing before the hearing without counsel; allows off-island witnesses to testify via Zoom
» Trial on merits of Yeom's 2 complaints against IPI starts Feb. 25

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission board granted yesterday CCC executive di-

See LAWYER on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Shin Restaurant has moved from its old location to its new site next to I Love Saipan.

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BUSINESS

Bolis R Us is an opportunity for local residents to taste the local flavor their parents grew up with.

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

The country has a new president and a new literary star: poet Amanda Gorman.

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Local

CHCC monitoring new COVID-19 strain

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to check if any of the new positive cases of COVID-19 in the CNMI is related to the new COVID-19 variant that is said to be more infectious.

The new COVID-19 variant, called SARS-CoV-2, B.1.1.7, is a more highly transmissible variant of COVID-19 and spreads more easily.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña earlier said that CHCC will be working with a company in Boston to do a study on the CNMI situation in relation to the new COVID-19 strain but that plan fell through, so CHCC turned to CDC.

Part of the study, Muña said, includes sending a specimen to CDC so that they generate sequencing data from all the specimens to see if there is a connection with that and the new strain of COVID-19. She said that CHCC has already sent samples to CDC.

Muña also said that CHCC

is monitoring developments on the new variant, which is believed to be more contagious, meaning it's easier to spread from one person to another.

As for Guam, the *Pacific Daily News* reported that they don't have the capability to confirm if the new COVID-19 strain, which was first reported in the United Kingdom, is on the island, but the Department of Public Health and Social Services said they can send samples to CDC.

Also, DPHSS is freezing samples collected that can be sent to the CDC for genome sequencing to confirm if the strain is on-island.

According to multiple media outlets, this new variant is projected to "dominate" in the United States by March. In fact, the CDC is urging Americans to "double down" on precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, as the new B.1.1.7 "super strain" takes hold in the U.S. CDC modeling shows the new strain could cause more than half of new infections in this country by March, even as the U.S. races to deploy vaccines.

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Propst: House gaming panel now organized

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) notified House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) on Wednesday that the House Committee on Gaming that he (Propst) chairs is now duly organized.



Propst

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) is the committee's vice chairperson. Its five members are

Reps. Ralph Naraja Yumul (R-Saipan), Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan), Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan), and Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan).

"The committee is ready to review and act on referred legislation or issues relative to gaming," Propst told Villagomez.

17th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 13-14

A full weekend of games and competitions are set for the 17th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 13-14, 2021, in the Marianas.

The festival, affectionately known as "Pika Fest" among residents ("pika" means spicy), pays homage to Tinian's small but famous "donne sali" hot pepper. Activities will include food sales, live entertainment, competitions, arts and crafts sales, and more.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority and the Tinian Mayor's Office, in consultation with the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., is pleased to announce that this year's Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will again be held on Presidents Day weekend, with consideration of COVID-19 prevention protocols, such as social distancing, wearing of masks, and hand washing. The Marianas hasn't any community spread in five months, and we will have several safety measures in place to help maintain that trend," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "The festival will provide a good opportunity to support the Tinian busi-

nesses and provide a positive boost to the community."

The festival will be held from the afternoon into the evening on both days, with exact times to be announced. Competitions will include hot pepper eating, "kadun pika" (spicy stew) cooking, cha-cha, tug-of-war, "umang" (hermit crab) race, and a home-made canoe race. The 18th Tinian Municipal Council will co-sponsor prizes for the male and female categories of the hot pepper eating contest.

The Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held at the Fiesta Grounds in San Jose, Tinian, adjacent to Jones Beach. Ferry service between Saipan and Tinian is still under consideration due to budget constraints.

Limited hotel accommodations are available at Tinian Ocean View, Lorilynn's Hotel, Tinian Street Motel, Fleming Hotel, Green Lion House Hotel, and the Marpo Valley Inn. Free camping is available at Kammer Beach, Taga Beach (toilets, barbecue pits, and outdoor showers available) and at the adjacent Tachogna Beach (toilets, barbecue pits, and indoor showers available). (PR)

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Competitors in the JC Café Pika Burger Eating Contest take their first bites at the 15th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 16, 2019.

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CNMI sees back-to-back fires

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI saw back-to-back fires throughout this week, with one en-

gulfing a home in San Vicente and another engulfing a large portion of vegetation on Capital Hill.

According to Derek Gersonde, De-

partment of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesperson, DFEMS received a call yesterday at 1:11pm reporting a grass fire on Capital Hill.

As of 7:33pm, the fire was contained but still ongoing. Engine 2 from the Garapan Fire Station and Engine-5 from the Kagman Fire Station were on standby for residential cover exposure.

Gersonde confirmed that two days before, a home in San Vicente was engulfed in flames. Fortunately, there were no injuries. As of press time yesterday, there were no further details of this fire.

Volunteers from the American Red Cross NMI Chapter responded to the home fire. According to a Red Cross statement, Disaster Action Team

volunteers received a call about the fire at 2am. Red Cross volunteers dispatched to the scene were able to interview the client and provide immediate emergency assistance.

John Hirsh, executive director of the ARC-NMI Chapter, said Red Cross staff and volunteers will remain available to help coordinate aid for the family affected and will continue to assist with planning to meet the needs of the family.

"We are extremely grateful for the support of our volunteers, community, and all the generous donors, which gives us the means and resources to continue the Red Cross mission of providing hope and relief to victims of disasters," he said.

1-WEEK

From Page 1

bench warrant for Cui's arrest after Cui showed up at the U.S. Courthouse during yesterday's hearing on the USDOL petition.

Manglona ordered a one week stop-work order for all IPI employees effective immediately to ensure IPI complies with the court sanctions, which includes paying in full the last few months of payrolls totaling over \$3 million, restoring power and water to employee housing, and providing food to employees residing in company housing.

The only ones exempted from the stop-work order, Manglona said, are administrative employees in charge of processing and issuing payrolls and property security.

Manglona said the stop-work order will be lifted if, after one week, IPI can prove that they have complied with the court-imposed sanctions pursuant to finding IPI and its officials in contempt, or if IPI has paid in full the last five employee payrolls and IPI has restored daily necessities they have taken away from their employees like power and water.

"Their daily lives must be prioritized," Manglona said, referring to IPI employees.

Manglona ordered IPI and Cui to return to court on Jan. 28, 2020 for a status conference to determine if IPI has complied and whether or not to



Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chair Cui Li Jie, in red, exits the U.S. Courthouse following a hearing where she and IPI were found in contempt pursuant to a petition filed by the U.S. Department of Labor. **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**

lift the stop-work order.

According to Manglona, she granted USDOL senior attorney Charles Song's motion for a stop-work order because, with the many lawsuits IPI currently faces, she is familiar with IPI's "patterns" and that they tend to react by "making promises" but they don't show actions.

"Sanctions must immediately be imposed. Jail time will not coerce them. I will only accept actions. We want IPI to succeed but not when they're stepping on human lives," she said.

Aside from paying payrolls and restoring company housing amenities, Manglona also ordered IPI to pay in full the \$1.8 million in back wages owed USDOL, pursuant to the consent judgement they violated.

Michael Dotts and Juan Lizama, on behalf of IPI and Cui, admitted

that they are in contempt for failure to comply.

The court dismissed former IPI CEO Donald Browne from the USDOL suit.

Dotts apprised the court that a one week-stop order is acceptable and further apprised the court that staff housing and food are priorities.

Dotts and Lizama both assured the court that IPI has received funding and will pay all owed payroll and restore housing amenities by today.

Manglona ordered Dotts to file a status report proving that payroll has been paid in full and that power and water has been restored no later than Jan. 22, 2021, at 12pm.

At around 4pm yesterday, a flock of IPI employees crowded outside the IPI Human Resources office on Capitol Hill to pick up their payroll checks.

LAWYER

From Page 1

rector Andrew Yeom's motion that prevents Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC from appearing before the CCC hearing without a lawyer in Yeom's two complaints against IPI.

CCC vice chair Rafael S. Demapan, who presided over a status hearing in Yeom's two consolidated cases, also announced that they granted Yeom's other motion that will allow off-island witnesses to testify via Zoom.

IPI counsel Michael W. Dotts did not appear at the conference. No IPI official also sat on the defendant's table after learning that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued an order yesterday stopping all IPI employees from working, except for those in charge with payroll and security.

Former Saipan senator Ray Naraja Yumul and other IPI officials attended the conference, but did not sit on the defendant's table. Yumul is reportedly negotiating with IPI to serve as IPI's new chief executive officer.

Demapan announced the decision after a discussion during a recess with other commissioners—Ramon M. Dela Cruz, Diego M. Songao, and Mariano Taitano.

CCC chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero recused himself from the case because he was CCC's executive director when the two cases were filed.

John P. Lowrey, the newly pro-

moted chief of the Office of the Attorney General's Civil Division, appeared at the conference as counsel for the board.

The first complaint, which was filed on May 20, 2020, refers to IPI's alleged failure to contribute \$20 million in community benefit fund.

The second complaint, which was filed on Aug. 26, 2020, pertains to IPI's alleged failure to pay the \$15 million annual license fee.

After announcing their decisions to grant the two motions, Demapan asked assistant attorney general Michael L. Ernest, counsel for Yeom, to restate their third motion. Ernest said he has yet to write the motion, but that it will be to prevent IPI's attorney from raising certain defenses that would be frivolous and irrelevant. Demapan said they decided to wait until Ernest files the written motion.

Demapan set the trial on the merits of the two consolidated complaints for Feb. 25, 2021.

At the conference, Ernest discussed the two motions and informed the board about filing the third motion.

Ernest said Yeom is ready to proceed on the two consolidated complaints and urges the setting of a hearing on the merits at the earliest time convenience of the commission. "I believe all our witnesses are on island. We filed an amended witness and exhibit list," he said.

Ernest said one of their witnesses that they intend to call via Zoom or teleconference is former IPI general counsel Phillip Tydingco, who is off-

island. He said Tydingco's presence may not be necessary if they can get the requisite stipulations from IPI.

Ernest said because of the difficulties inherent in traveling with COVID-19, they asked the commission to allow their witnesses to appear at any hearing in this matter via Zoom or other teleconference.

Ernest restated Yeom's motion that IPI cannot defend itself in any way except through an attorney licensed to practice in the CNMI. "This is I believe, the state of the law. It's a crime in the Commonwealth to appear before you unless there is an applicable rule granting permission and I don't believe that is the case," he said.

Citing Manglona's stop-work order, Ernest said he has not read the order, but that in all candor, his belief is that it would be a direct violation of the federal court order for anyone other than an outside retained counsel to come in and do any work, and presumably that would include defending IPI.

"The fact is there's this federal court order that says they can't even talk to you right now," Ernest told the board.

He said he would like to add the federal district court order as an additional basis for the granting of their motion to prevent IPI from appearing without counsel.

Demapan stated that for the record during the board's regular monthly meeting last Dec. 22, they strongly advised IPI that they should have a counsel at the status conference.

"It appears none [are in attendance]," Demapan said.

FEB. 5

From Page 1

a new date to launch the "travel bubble" in the CNMI.

During a monthly MVA meeting yesterday, Travel Bubble Committee member Priscilla Iakopo said the new target date to launch the travel bubble is Feb. 5.

"Initially we were supposed to initiate the travel bubble on Jan. 13. However, we did not get the approval from [the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency]. And so...an application...was resubmitted again and our new tentative date is Feb. 5, and we hope to hear back as soon as possible," she said.

Iakopo said aside from the launch date, all approved protocols and procedures for the travel bubble remain the same.

A travel bubble is an exclusive arrangement between two jurisdictions that will allow a relatively easier exchange of travelers between the two.

The travel bubble, which is a collaborative effort between E-Land Group of Companies, MVA, and the CNMI administration, is supposed to be a bridge between Saipan and

South Korea and is being touted as a tentative reopening of tourism in the CNMI, allowing Korean tourists to visit the CNMI under an exclusive arrangement.

The travel bubble program has yet to be advertised in South Korea, which means no participants have been confirmed for the program yet.

Back in December, the MVA board unanimously approved E-Land's proposed plan to carry out the travel bubble in the CNMI.

The health protocols for travel bubble passengers were revised to add another layer, so all arrivals would be subjected to three layers of screening: As soon as they arrive, passengers with the travel bubble must show proof of a negative PCR [polymerase chain reaction] test 72 hours prior to arriving on Saipan. The passengers will then take another test upon arrival and one more test five days after.

Once they arrive, the passengers will be immediately brought to Pacific Islands Club Saipan where they will be quarantined for five days. There, they will be able to use the facilities. They will then be transported to Kensington Hotel after the fifth day testing comes out negative for everyone aboard the flight.

BIDEN

From Page 1

resilience and unity to confront the deeply divided nation's historic confluence of crises.

Denouncing a national "uncivil war," Biden took the oath Wednesday at a U.S. Capitol that had been battered by an insurrectionist siege just two weeks earlier. Then, taking his place in the White House Oval Office, he plunged into a stack of executive actions that began to undo the heart of his polarizing predecessor's agenda on matters from the deadly pandemic to climate change.

At the Capitol, with America's tradition of peaceful transfers of power never appearing more fragile, the ceremony unfolded within a circle of security forces evocative of a war zone and devoid of crowds because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Instead, Biden gazed out on a cold Washington morning dotted with snow flurries to see over 200,000 American flags planted on the National Mall to symbolize those who could not attend in person.

"The will of the people has been

RELATED NEWS

- Vice President Harris: A new chapter opens in US politics. **PAGE 15**
- Indian village cheers for Harris during swearing-in as US VP. **PAGE 16**
- World hopes for renewed cooperation with US under Biden. **PAGE 17**
- With passion and fashion, Lady Gaga delivers powerful anthem. **PAGE 19**

heard, and the will of the people has been heeded. We've learned again that democracy is precious and democracy is fragile. At this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed," Biden declared in his speech. "This is America's day. This is democracy's day. A day of history and hope, of renewal and resolve."

History was made at his side, as Kamala Harris became the first woman to be vice president. The former U.S. senator from California is also the first Black person and the first person of South Asian descent elected to the vice presidency and the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in the U.S. government.

Yumul wants casino to succeed, resolve IPI's issues

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Former Saipan senator Ray Naraja Yumul is considering serving as chief executive officer of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, saying he wants the casino industry to succeed and resolve the many issues that IPI is facing in the CNMI.

Among those issues are legal disputes, the reported humanitarian crisis affecting many former employees, and unpaid payrolls, among other things, and that's the challenge for the next CEO, Yumul said in an interview yesterday.

"I'm glad that IPI is now finally considering a local boy, basically, for the casino industry," said Yumul after a status conference in two cases filed against IPI at the Common-

wealth Casino Commission's conference room at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

» Citing Tinian Dynasty's case, Yumul says if IPI fails it will take years before another casino investor comes in

» Yumul is glad IPI finally considers "local boy" to serve as CEO

Yumul attended the status conference, but did not participate.

The former senator said he wants to make sure that IPI comes through and survive. "I want them to succeed. The

community wants them to succeed because if they fail, it'll be years, who knows how long, before another licensee comes up," he pointed out.

Yumul cited the case of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. He said the Tinian casino law allows for five casinos, but when Tinian Dynasty shut down, they were unable to muster a replacement casino.

"So if IPI fails, there won't be another investor for years to come, if at all. That's a very strong possibility," he said.

Yumul said COVID-19 is going to be with the CNMI for the rest of this year, and nobody knows if it's still be here next year. He said investors are not going to jump in next year or maybe the following year, as they want to see first how the economy here rebounds and recovers.

"And then they have to go through the process of being graded. ... So that really is not in the best interest of everybody," Yumul said.

He said people want to keep

what the CNMI has, fix the problems, and move forward.

On the CEO position, Yumul said he and IPI are still in negotiation, but that CCC executive director Andrew Yeom was right when he told the CCC board during Wednesday's board meeting that he (Yumul) and IPI have a verbal agreement.

Yumul said he has many conditions, though, and will be giving IPI a document that will itemize those conditions. "And that's what I'm doing right now. That's why it's not formalized because, upon [IPI's] acceptance [of the conditions], then I will accept the position," he said.

Some of those conditions, Yumul said, are obviously the biggest concerns that are confronting IPI now—the cases in federal court, and

the humanitarian issue. He said those are concerns that he wants to resolve.

Yumul said he finds it "very interesting" that the prior CEO did not accomplish one critical task despite being on the job for seven months. Although he did not mention any name, he was obviously referring to Donald R. Browne, who resigned as CEO last month.

When asked why IPI had no lawyer for the CCC hearing yesterday, Yumul said his understanding is that IPI lawyer Michael W. Dotts had another pressing issue and was probably in another court hearing.

He said he is aware that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued an order yesterday that stopped all IPI employees from working except those in charge of payroll and security.

Suit vs GIG dismissed

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has dismissed with prejudice the lawsuit Zaji O. Zajradhara filed against GIG Partners Inc. for alleged constitutional violations.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has dismissed the suit versus GIG, its general controller Christylyn Montilla, assistant bar manager Bryan Mendoza Jr., and owner Takayuki Niizeki, but allowed Zajradhara to refile his claims if he wishes to do so by Feb. 11, 2021. If he fails to do this, the court will dismiss the lawsuit and close the case.

In her order, Manglona said Zajradhara, who represents himself, provides no other statement describing his claims, and instead provides the court with many exhibits attached in a disordered fashion, including email correspondences with defendants, copies of checks, and independent contractor agreement, records from his 2019 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission case, records from various cases he filed in 2017 with the CNMI Department of Labor and records

from his complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice-Civil Rights Division.

"Thus, with much effort, the court has pulled together from plaintiff's various exhibits that he may have one potentially viable claim for a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act," she said.

She said the exhibits show that Zajradhara filed a charge with U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Honolulu office, alleging that he was discriminated from a bartender/waitstaff position he applied for in late 2018 at GIG because of his age, color, black and Native American race, national origin, or was retaliated against for engaging in protected activity. The EEOC dismissed the claim on Aug. 21, 2020, but Zajradhara later asked for a judicial review of the decision.

Manglona noted that the complaint must include facts that can allow the court to draw reasonable inference that the defendants are liable for the misconduct alleged. At this time, she said, Zajradhara's allegation that the defendants violated his rights is vague, conclusory, and does not meet the requirements of Rule 8 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

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Robert T. Torres at
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Bids will be closed on FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021 AT 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers.
The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties - **Minimum bid is \$7,500.00.** The winning bidder shall tender the full bid amount upon acceptance

Inspection and a vehicle bid form can be obtained from
Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES

Attorney at Law

Chalan Kiya

P.O. Box 503758 CK

Saipan, MP 96950

Public warned of rip currents, choppy seas

The public is being warned of a high rip current risk that is expected to last through Sunday afternoon. Also, a small craft advisory is in effect through Friday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents are present along east facing reefs of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through 6pm Sunday.

East winds of 15 to 25 knots with gusts of up to 30

knots and seas of 8 to 10 feet are expected along Marianas coastal waters through this Friday afternoon. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft. Highest seas will be east of the islands. Waves will diminish below criteria by Sunday, but are expected to build again around Tuesday.

Rip currents will likely continue through Sunday, briefly subside Monday, then the risk could become high along north facing reefs Tuesday or Wednesday.

Rip currents can sweep

even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are advised to avoid venturing out near reef lines facing east. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline, then head in to shore when you are out of the current.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in hazardous conditions. **(PR)**

CUC ADVISORIES

Water service interruptions on Monday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled water service interruption for the areas of San Vicente, Papago, Laulau, Tutturam, Upper Dandan Homestead, Obyan, and Naftan on Monday, Jan. 25, 2021, from 8am to 4pm.

This will allow CUC's contractor for the San Vicente Water Tank Replacement Project, GPPC Inc., to connect the 6-inch PVC pipes to the existing transmission lines to allow temporary water service during the replacement of the existing tank. As a result of the new tank, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community.

This is an ongoing project

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT AUDIT MANAGER

EXAMINATION NO. OPA-21-001
Opening Date: 1/14/21 Closing Date: 1/28/21

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan.



Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: <http://opacnmi.com>
Address: 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: PO Box 501399, Saipan MP 96950
Email: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481 Fax: (670) 322-7812

funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**

Power service interruption on Monday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption on Monday, Jan. 25, 2021, from 9am to 10am for the areas of Lower Base, Tanapag, As Mahetog, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi.

■ Traffic light affected: Lower Base (near Saipan Ice

and Water Company)

■ Water well affected: As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag

Wastewater Lift Station Affected: T-1, T-3, SR-1, SR-2 and SR-3

This will de-energize lines so that CUC linemen can safely replace deteriorated hardware on the primary power poles along Chalan Pale Arnold Road on Feeder 7 and near Pacific Marine Enterprise in Tanapag and Camille Gardenia Apartment in Marpi.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**

\$30M contract awarded for 'green' services at JRM

ASAN, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Marianas awarded Wednesday a \$30 million icontract to Sundance-EA Associates II of Pocatello, Idaho, for environmental compliance services at Joint Region Marianas.

The work to be performed is the full range of environmental

compliance activities for JRM installations, tenant commands, facilities and operations. The IDIQ will support NAVFAC Marianas' effort to ensure the Navy maintains compliance with all applicable environmental federal, U.S. territory, and local statutes, and with Department of Defense and Navy policies, permits, instructions, and guidance.

"Environmental compliance is a vital component of our mission in support of JRM and all DoD activities on island," said NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer Capt. Tim Liberator. "This contract award is a representation of the hard work and dedication of our contracting and environmental team in ensuring we meet critical Navy requirements that allow us to continue supporting the warfighter, while maintaining good environmental stewardship." **(USN)**

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (12/16/2020)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - P.Biukoto (Mental Health Counselor)
 - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

Jose Boki (Evangelista) Hughes, Jr.
11375 Divinity St.
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re)
the Matter) FCD CIVIL ACTION
of Maria Boki) NO.20-0361
Evangelista)

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 18, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom Tinian Courthouse, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 21st day of January, 2021.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-016

SUBMISSION DATE: February 23, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"Island Wide Emergency Repair, Saipan Traffic Signals, School Zone Flasher & Ped. Signal System Project No. EY-19, (004) Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 09, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 17, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticm.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

ARFF TRAINING FACILITY TYPHOON DAMAGES GENERAL REPAIRS/REPLACEMENT Project No. CPA-SA-001-19

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for general repairs and/or replacement of typhoon damages sustained by Super Typhoon Yutu at the ARFF Training Facility (ARFFTF) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport as per this Scope of Work (SOW) and associated Contract Documents, meeting all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations.

The Scope of Work (SOW) outlining the project's general requirements may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and costs must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on **Friday, January 15, 2021 at 10:00 am** at the ARFF Training Facility at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to discuss the project scope of work in detail. Attendance to the pre-proposal conference is **mandatory**. A site inspection will immediately follow the pre-proposal conference. Additional site visits after the pre-proposal conference may be coordinated with CPA's Project Manager, Mr. Andrew Ellison, at telephone number 671-689-1262 or 670-288-0907 or Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at 670-237-6519, but only until January 22, 2021.

Questions shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Prater, via hand delivery to CPA, or via email to wprater@cnmiports.com by no later than 5:00 p.m., **Friday, January 22, 2021**. Responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who attend the mandatory pre-proposal conference.

Proposers shall submit one (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for General Construction Repairs/Replacement for SIA ARFF Training Facility, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-001-19"**. Proposals must be submitted by no later than **5:00 P.M., CHST, FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: December 17, 2020

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticm.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2021

Opening date: January 08, 2021 **Closing date: January 29, 2021**

Positions: (1) Mechanic-II (Saipan-ARFF)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 29, 2021**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

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<p>SUMIRE CALROSE RICE 44#</p>  <p>\$22⁹⁹</p>	<p>KIKKOMAN SOY SAUCE 1.8 LTR</p>  <p>\$4⁹⁹ ea.</p>	<p>SO NATURAL FULL CREAM OR SKIM MILK 1 LTR</p>  <p>\$1⁶⁹ ea.</p>	<p>JOETEN HAND SANITIZER FLIP TOP 100ml</p>  <p>99¢ ea.</p>	<p>JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4pk</p>  <p>\$2⁹⁹</p>

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<p>RANCH HOUSE GROUND BEEF 2LBS</p>  <p>\$5⁶⁹</p>	<p>BEEF PATTIES BAG 3LB</p>  <p>\$11⁴⁹</p>	<p>N.Z. LAMB SHOULDER BNLS RWT /LB</p>  <p>\$7⁹⁹ /lb.</p>	<p>N.Z. LAMB FRNCHD RCK B/I RWT /LB</p>  <p>\$12⁹⁹ /lb.</p>	<p>PACIFIC UNSWT HEMP MILK ORIG 32z</p>  <p>\$4⁴⁹</p>	<p>VICTORIA BITTER BEER BTLE 375ML</p>  <p>\$1³⁹</p>

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**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation****JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

JVA No. 21-011

Opening Date: January 11, 2020
Closing Date: January 25, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	Laboratory Technician
DEPARTMENT:	Water & Wastewater Laboratory
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$20,826.00 to \$28,115.00 per annum, Non- Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Laboratory Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Performs laboratory testing and analysis of water and wastewater samples in accordance with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.
- Collects field samples including well, safe drinking water, and wastewater samples; determines and gathers appropriate sample containers; determines route schedules; ensures validity of samples collected including sample holding time and temperature ranges.
- Reviews, determines, records and/or reports sample analyses results; maintains laboratory files, records and related documentation.
- Maintains and cleans laboratory equipment and supplies; washes glassware, bottles and other testing supplies; ensures testing area and equipment are prepared, in working order, and ready for use.
- Monitors supplies and makes requests for replenishment of stock as needed; may research and gather and report quotation and information related to supply needs.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: High School diploma, GED or (AS) through the Adult Basic Education. Associate's Degree in physical science, chemistry, biology, or other related science is preferred.

Knowledge of: Mathematical concepts; Recordkeeping principles; Customer service principles; Safe work practices; Using computers, including sending business email and use of Excel and Word.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying written laboratory procedures, applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Making work assignments and monitoring work completion (based on assignment); Performing laboratory sampling and testing of water and wastewater; Analyzing and reporting testing results; Collecting field samples and validating samples for testing; Maintaining laboratory records and files; Cleaning and maintaining laboratory equipment and supplies; Monitoring supplies and initiating requests to replenish stock; Researching and gathering information regarding supply purchase needs; Providing attention to detail; Adhering to safe work procedures; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Some positions may require the following specialized licenses and certifications: Water/Wastewater Laboratory staff.

• Licensing:

- o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
Office of the Executive Director**REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND
ENGINEERING SERVICES (RAES)
CUC-RAES-21-008****CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER
UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for a Consultant (Project Engineer) from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Professional Services for the development of studies and the ultimate expansion of Power Plant #1 and Design, Build and Construction of a New Power Plant in Lower Base on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Proposers for this RAES must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Scope of Work (SOW) of the RAES may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RAES package set.

One (1) Non-Priced Proposal & One (1) Priced Proposal marked "CUC-RAES-21-008, CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES" must be submitted via email to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior, Purchasing Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 11, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

The selection of an A&E firm for the award of a contract will be by a committee appointed by the CUC Executive Director for this purpose, which will evaluate responses to this solicitation. Selection shall be made in accordance with CUC Procurement Regulations §50-50-305 regarding Architectural and Engineering Services. Discussions shall be conducted with at least 3 of the responding firms (or less if fewer than five firms respond) regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made therefrom. Based on the scoring criteria outlined herein, only the three most highly qualified firms shall be invited to discuss further the firm's qualifications and project approach outlined in the scope of work.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project will be entertained only for pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior—via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

**PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN**

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude. Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) F&B GUEST SERVICE HOST

High School/GED is required. Minimum of three (3) months' work experience, preferably in hospitality. High School or equivalent. Requires ability to perform basic math skills such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Knowledge of appropriate table settings and F&B terminology. Previous food and beverage server and cash handling experience preferred. Bi-lingual in Korean-English or Chinese-English or Japanese-English is required due to the demographics of guest at the resort. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays. Must be able to multi task.

(1) GUEST RELATIONS OFFICER

Associate Degree. Six months or more experience in Concierge or Customer Service in hotel or related industry. Proficient in languages of Korean-English or Chinese-English or Russian-English is required due to the demographic of visitors/tourist to Saipan. Must be able to work flexible shifts (days, nights and holidays).

(1) ENGINEERING MANAGER

Associates Degree in Engineering and 48 months of work experienced in Engineering. Previous experienced in leadership role in resort/waterpark setting. Able to lift 15 lbs. bend, stretch and twist, sit or stand for long periods of time, climb multiple flights of stairs on daily basis and walk frequently. Must have previous experience in leadership role in resort/waterpark setting. Must be able to work under a flexible schedule work schedule including early morning hours, evenings, weekends, holidays and increment weather. Previous experience in management of maintenance/engineering specific to electrical, plumbing, HVAC system, ventilation system and carpentry.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, February 4th, 2021.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance or online at www.picresorts/saipan/careers.

Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.

PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
Office of the Executive Director**REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND
ENGINEERING SERVICES
CUC-RAES-21-013****A&E Design Services for the Lower Miha Sewerline Replacement
(S19-068)**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Lower Miha Homestead Sewerline Replacement in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAES package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAES-21-013, A&E Design Services for Lower Miha Sewerline Replacement", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 12, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Dennis Formalejo, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Special Feature

Editor's Note: The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership initiative has drawn widespread support from the community. Various activities have been conducted and projects have been launched to rally behind the destination enhancement campaign. This section will provide insights on how PPP supporters are committed to the program.



Together, We Can
Public Private Partnership



FEMA staff volunteer for Grotto projects

The five groups that adopted the Grotto got back to business early into the new year and received support for the repainting job and other significant improvement done at the site.

Volunteers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency joined Bibong Corp./Marianas Lighthouse,

many sights and activities so to enhance one of its more popular locations was a pleasure," said Wendell Crittenden, who was joined by his FEMA co-workers Kimberly Hodge, Tracey McCauley, Winsome Reid, Patrick Smith, Alan Lee, and Deborah Solis at the Grotto cleanup last Jan. 16.



Loco & Taco Dining Bar/Saipan Adventure, Divewish, Tasi & the Ali's, and International Roller Skates employees in their continued efforts to spruce up the Grotto.

"We had a great time helping out. Saipan is a beautiful island, full of

Crittenden was also amazed at how the CNMI community has thrown its support behind the Public Private Partnership campaign—a destination transformation initiative launched by the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers.

"I think the volunteer efforts are a positive way to give back and I've seen several since my time on island, which is why we reached out to find information about volunteering. We enjoyed the opportunity to assist in any way possible while here sharing the lovely island and the community," Crittenden said.

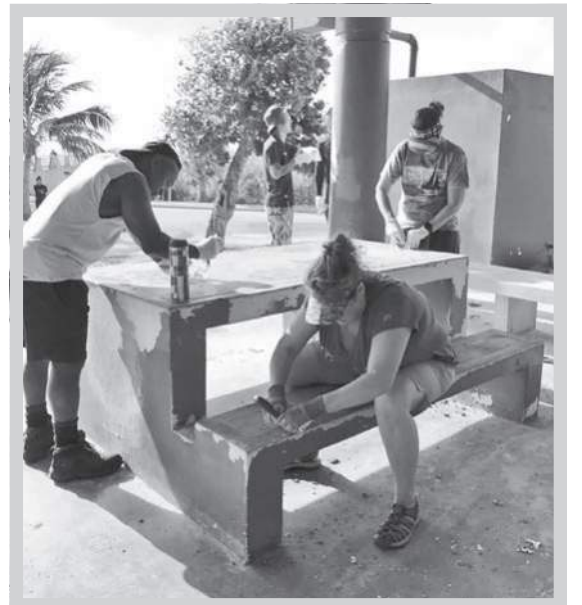
Besides continuing with the repainting job at Grotto Pavilion 2, the seven FEMA staff and representatives from Bibong Corp./Marianas Lighthouse, Loco & Taco Dining Bar, Divewish, Tasi & the Ali's, and

International Roller Skates have also started working on Pavilion 1 and finished marking the parking lines for buses and the upper parking area.

"We would like to thank the FEMA staff for their assistance. It was definitely great having extra hands helping us out with our projects. Having people from different groups in the community coming together to beautify our island one step at a time is such a welcome sight, especially in these challenging times," said Loco & Taco Dining Bar/Saipan Adventure manager James Ko.

"We're pleased to make progress with our projects early into the new year. There's more work to be done so we will stay committed to this initiative to make our sites better for the benefit of both the residents and visitors of these beautiful islands," Loco & Taco Dining Bar/Saipan Adventure owner Mickey Kim added.

For their next projects, Kim said they are looking at cleaning the curbs, putting up safety signs, fixing the bathroom doors, and filling up potholes in the parking lot and surrounding areas.



Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

America can breathe a sigh of relief—for a day

Joe Biden began his presidency Wednesday with an inaugural address that hit all the right notes. Pledging to heal a nation more deeply divided than at any point since the Vietnam War—if not the Civil War—he reaffirmed his campaign promises to be a leader for all Americans.

Americans can, for one day, breathe a sigh of relief that the tumultuous Trump presidency, which reached an ugly climax in the Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol, has at last come to an end.

Biden bluntly acknowledged that “speaking of unity can sound to some like a foolish fantasy these days,” but he also pointed out the terrible consequences of its absence: “For without unity, there is no peace, only bitterness and fury. No progress, only exhausting outrage. No nation, only a state of chaos.” He urged Americans to reject both the idea that politics “has to be a raging fire, destroying everything in its path” and “the culture in which facts themselves are manipulated and even manufactured.” Noting that unity is “elusive” in a democracy, he did not once mention his predecessor or the complicity of some of the very lawmakers in his audience in President Donald Trump’s effort to subvert democracy.

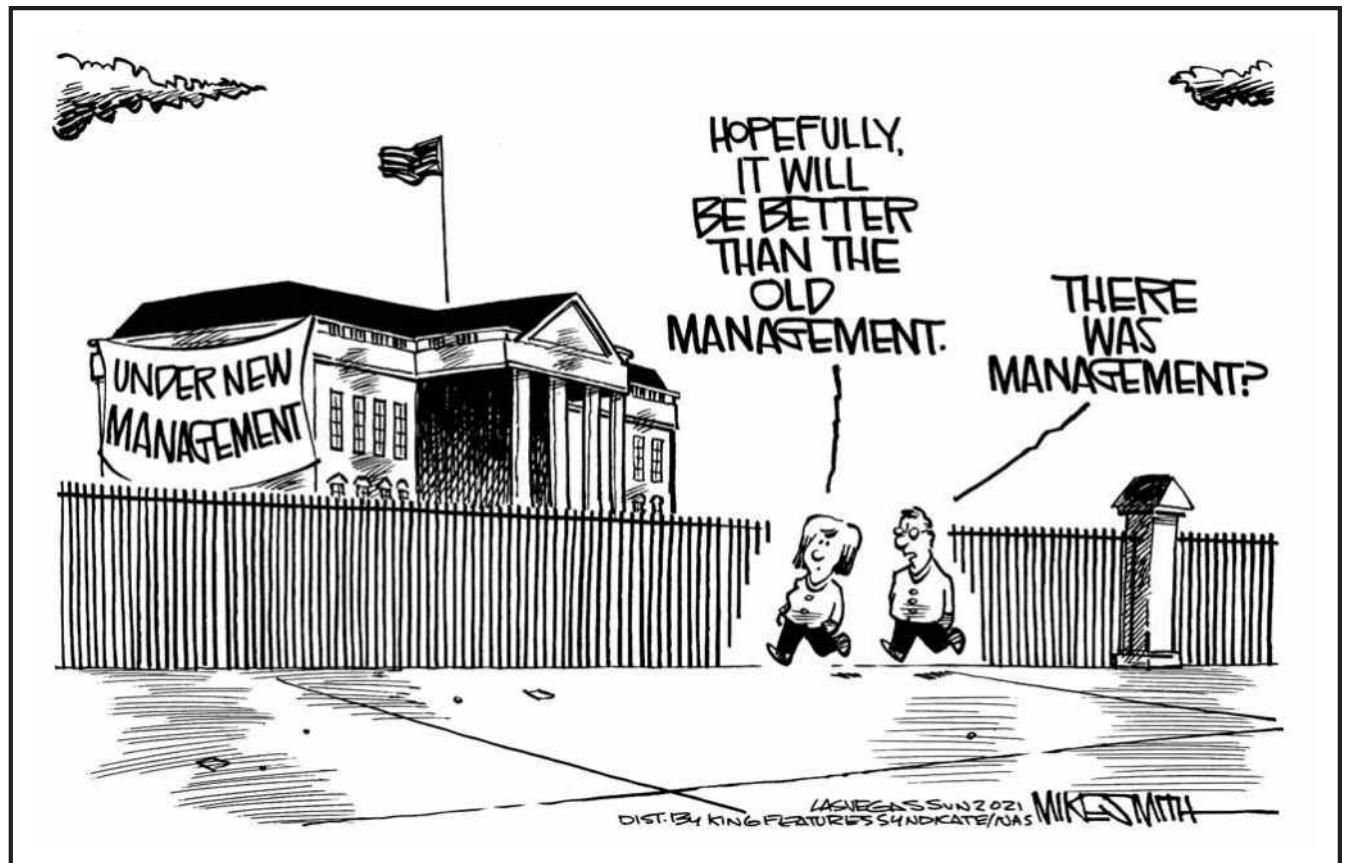
So unlike Trump’s address four years ago, with its bewildering (and inadvertently prophetic) talk of “American carnage,” Biden’s words came across as humble, even beseeching. “We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal. We can do this if we open our souls instead of hardening our hearts,” he said.

For Americans who are desperate for a return to civility, to rational dialogue and to the prospect of a government that functions, these words were welcome, however great the obstacles that will have to be overcome.

Along with setting the right tone, the speech was notable in several respects. Outside of climate change, it scarcely mentioned foreign affairs—a poignant reflection of America’s weakened and self-absorbed condition these past few years. Only the second Catholic president, Biden quoted St. Augustine in describing the “common objects” that Americans share: “Opportunity, security, liberty, dignity, respect, honor and yes, the truth.” And in leading a silent prayer for the 400,000 Americans lost to COVID-19, Biden once again displayed the empathy and compassion that come not only from the wisdom of age, but from the grief of losing his first wife and two of his children, one in childhood, the other in adulthood.

Born during World War II—the deadliest single event for the United States until COVID-19—Biden was elected to the Senate in 1972. He worked with eight presidents—from Richard Nixon to Barack Obama—before defeating a ninth, Trump. He will need to draw on wisdom born from experience while also clearing the path for a younger generation of leaders, as he started to do with the selection of Kamala Harris as vice president, the first Black American, Asian American and woman to occupy that office—and the highest ranking Californian in the land since Ronald Rea-

See AMERICA on Next Page



Kamala Harris and the fearless Black women who paved the way

*I can't stand the pressure much longer
Somebody say a prayer
Alabama's gotten me so upset
Tennessee made me lose my rest
And everybody knows about Mississippi Goddam
—"Mississippi Goddam"*

Nina Simone’s civil rights anthem, written in 1964, was shocking at the time for its truth-telling. In the 2015 documentary about her life as a musician and civil rights activist, Dick Gregory said, “If you look at all the suffering that Black folks went through, not one Black man would dare say Mississippi goddam. ... We all wanted to say it. She said it. Mississippi goddam.”

It’s an incredible moment in the film when you consider that Gregory was a contemporary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X and yet he felt comfortable saying that no Black man, himself included, was willing to say what Simone was willing to sing—honestly, passionately, unapologetically.

If his remark had a dash of hyperbole, the heart of it rings true: The power of Black women was forged in an America that would not accept her vulnerability yet labels her as angry for showing strength. It came out of her willingness to speak in a country where she was both indispensable and isolated.

Kamala Harris’ rise to the vice presidency is a great step forward, but it is also an indictment of this country’s caste system. Many nations around the world have already had women in the highest office. Yet here in our shining city on a hill, we have witnessed an insurrection at the Capitol with domestic terrorists trying to overturn the election that includes our first female Black vice president. So forgive me if my optimism is tempered a bit.

Nevertheless, there is pride in seeing someone who looks like my mother, my sisters, Simone taking on the reins of government. This breakthrough was so desperately needed because Lord knows this country has worked tirelessly to break Black women. From hundreds of years of enslavement in which their children were taken and sold into slavery to Jim Crow to decades of state-run eugenics programs that carried out thousands of involuntary sterilizations.

My mother is from a generation that witnessed trees that grew strange fruit and the denial of treatment for Black men with syphilis as part of a federal medical experiment. My mother wasn’t convinced the COVID-19 vaccine was OK to take until she learned that Black women were involved in its development—a fear rooted in understanding that this country has not been on your side.

Imagine forging a sisterhood with white women during the suffrage movement only to be abandoned once the 19th Amendment

By LZ GRANDERSON
Los Angeles Times



LZ Granderson is sports and culture columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

was ratified, voiceless at the polls for nearly an additional 50 years.

Imagine being referred to as the backbone of the Democratic Party only to have some leaders view your inclusion on the national ticket as radical.

Imagine cultural images portraying Black women as subservient and inferior, as mammies nurturing a false narrative that Aunt Jemima must be happy because she was always smiling in the picture. The film historian Donald Bogle said in 2020 that “of all the stereotypes, the mammy figure is the one that America cherishes the most.”

The radio host Don Imus, who died in 2019, leaned on this time and time again to the delight of his large, unbothered audience. He went so far as to call the acclaimed journalist Gwen Ifill “the cleaning lady” when she was covering the White House for The New York Times. White America largely shrugged its collective shoulders.

We were told to ignore him because he’s a “shock jock.” Today, the apologists like to claim that the reaction of Trump’s supporters to his suggestion that Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley and Rashida Tlaib should go back to where they came from stems from “economic anxiety.”

I wonder what phrase apologists will come up with next to sanitize racism.

During the campaign, when Harris took the stage to Mary J. Blige’s “Work That,” she wasn’t just playing a song that meant something to her. She was reminding women—and especially women of color—to put on their armor and guard their hearts.

Let ‘em get mad

They gonna hate anyway

Don’t you get that?

Doesn’t matter if you’re going on with their plan

They’ll never be happy

Cause they’re not happy with themselves

Black women such as Rep. Maxine Waters, the journalist Jemele Hill and the political activist Stacey Abrams have been demonized during the Trump era for doing exactly what Simone did when

See KAMALA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Biden's splendid inauguration

It was a thing of beauty: a light blue, shining sky, a magnificent hymn, a powerful benediction, poetry, patriotic music and a speech in which President Joseph Biden called first and foremost for national unity, mentioning along the way such things as love, liberty, honor and truth. Can he help provide this unity? We don't know yet, but his inauguration was a signal of hope and it's impossible to imagine a more vivid contrast to the revolting riot 14 days earlier.

Both were at the Capitol, the governmental center of this country, bringing to mind a line from the great writer of verse William Butler Yeats. "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold," he told us. Biden wisely did not mention Donald Trump, but he has obviously been part of the story, not in many of his policies that were exceptional, but in a scatter-brained, petty, vindictive, uninformed manner that even made his inauguration very different. Remember how he immediately went to war with the press for not printing misinformation to the effect that the inauguration crowd was bigger than it was?

Trump is not excused because there are leftists of similar ilk, but there are, such as those who endorse conspiracy theories about Russian collusion, threaten Supreme Court justices, viciously demean the 74 million people who voted for Trump and would reverse Trump by reversing his best policy results.

Biden was right to emphasize we can disagree without anger, that history, faith and reason advise us that we should not be adversaries so much as neighbors. Let's end this "uncivil war" of rural folks vs. urban folks, of conservatives vs. liberals, and veer more toward tolerance and humility, he said, but how do we get there?

Faith, maybe? I myself was especially pleased to see that Biden was not one of those who think separation of church and state somehow means faith should not intervene in our political lives, for instance. How wonderful it was to hear Garth Brooks sing "Amazing Grace" emphasizing the good over the bad. Other emotional if non-religious high points worth mentioning include Lady Gaga filling hearts with patriotism in singing "The

AMERICA

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gan's presidency ended in 1989.

Befitting the urgency of the hour, Biden said he would spend his first day as president taking executive action on the pandemic, creating a new coordinator for all federal COVID-19 efforts and mandating that anyone in a federal building or traveling across state lines wear a face mask. He also announced that he would call on federal agencies to consider extending the eviction and foreclosure moratoriums until at least March 31 and the student loan payment freeze through Sept. 30, wisely seeking to continue two worthwhile Trump policies.

Other orders queued up by Biden seek to erase the mistakes of the past four years, a task that sadly ranks as a top priority. These include calling on federal agencies to undo or revisit Trump administration regulations that harmed public health or the environment, rolled back greenhouse gas regulations such as the vehicle fuel economy standards, and opened more protected public lands to drillers and miners. He also announced plans to scrap a number of Trump's more xenophobic immigration policies, including the efforts to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

No question, the corrective steps are important. But Biden, with a razor-thin Democratic majority in the new Congress, also needs to get moving on creating more, better-paying jobs and fixing longstanding and seemingly intractable problems, such as our broken immigration system. We're getting used to seeing new presidents sign a series of orders to reverse what their predecessors had done—and perhaps the reversals are inevitable in a country so bitterly divided. But it's also an indictment of Congress for punting so much important policymaking to the White House. If lawmakers did the job the Constitution assigned to them, we could avoid at least some of the ideological whip-sawing we've seen as administrations have changed.

For a day, Americans can take pride in the ritual handover of power that has taken place, despite the extraordinary sea of flags bearing witness rather than a crowd of citizens, and the backdrop of a Capitol that had been the scene of a violent rampage two weeks earlier. We join Biden in calling for America to "master this rare and difficult hour," for the costs of not doing so are too painful to imagine.

© 2021 Los Angeles Times

Star-Spangled Banner" and 22-year-old Amanda Gorman reciting her poem on justice.

Concerning unity, Biden quoted Abraham Lincoln as saying "my whole soul is in it" and added that is exactly how he feels, and it's worth mentioning that his record as a U.S. senator did demonstrate an ability to negotiate, to get along with varied sides, to compromise, even if perfection somehow resides outside his grasp. But even with people like Brooks out there, how do you get people to be gentle and kind with anyone who doesn't share their convictions?

We see examples of my-way-or-the-highway all the time, and there is now a chorus that everyone who has ever supported Trump in anything is equivalent to a Jan. 6 Capitol rioter and should somehow be punished. There is a special prejudice against his supporters in the white working class. I ran across someone on Facebook writing, "The only way a creature like Trump can be elected President is if we have a lot of fools, traitors, bigots, and crooks in our society. They are the malignant tumor that must be cut out, no longer. Only then will we have the America we thought

Blended families. Racial diversity. Has an inauguration ever looked more like America?

Has an Inauguration Day ever looked more like America?

The racial and ethnic and gender diversity: From Kamala Harris, a Black woman of South Asian descent, being sworn in by Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latina to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, to Jennifer Lopez addressing the crowd in Spanish after singing "This Land is My Land."

The blended families: President Joe Biden was surrounded by children and grandchildren ("a whole bunch of Bidens," Sen. Amy Klobuchar called them), from both the late Neilia Hunter Biden and Jill Biden, his wife of 42 years. Harris was accompanied by her stepchildren, the son and daughter of her husband, Doug Emhoff—who are named, by the way, after American jazz greats John Coltrane and Ella Fitzgerald.

Harris and Emhoff's mixed-faith marriage—he's Jewish; she was raised with a mixture of Hinduism and Christianity.

Pete Buttigieg, Biden's newly appointed transportation secretary, seated next to his husband, Chasten.

Country singer Garth Brooks' gorgeous rendition of "Amazing Grace," sung in bluejeans.

The nods to those who came before us: National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman's breathtaking call to live up to America's promise. ("We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be.") Harris' purple coat, which is thought to be a tribute to Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman to run for president. A benediction delivered by the Rev. Silvester Beaman, the pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Wilmington, Delaware, and a longtime friend of the late Beau Biden.

The sound of somebody's baby crying in the silent pauses between speakers. (You're witnessing history, baby!)

All of it painted a full and beautiful portrait.

The world was watching on Wednesday—possibly with bated breath, given the events of the past two weeks. America showed its best, truest self.

"We'll lead not merely by the example of our power," Biden told the crowd, "but by the power of our example."

KAMALA

From Page 10

America's ugliness viciously slapped her in the face—fight back by fearlessly speaking the truth. That fearless cry is part of America's history, despite all attempts to silence it. It echoes today, from judges in courtrooms to WNBA players on the basketball court.

Kamala Harris' inauguration is cause for celebration. But we need to resist the urge to hop on the express train, past all the brutal chapters of history, in talking about this day. To fully appreciate what this moment means, we have to take the local. Make every stop, pick up every passenger, listen to every story.

Only then—by acknowledging the long and arduous climb for women who look like her—can we avoid cheapening this achievement by reducing it to a feel-good moment for something that should have been possible a long time ago.

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



we had before Trump showed us differently."

Like Biden, I want this nation to come together, certainly to address racism, for instance, but not to address it violently, not to instigate riots and then pretend they were not riots or to say riots are needed in some instances. That is not unity.

There are tough questions in all of this, but thank you President Biden, for possibly inspiring higher standards and instigating more thought.

By HEIDI STEVENS

Chicago Tribune

Heidi Stevens is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.



It was a hopeful sight, this Inauguration Day.

It was also a sobering one. The masks on nearly every face, the absence of jubilant crowds to bear witness, the absence of Biden's immediate predecessor, the tens of thousands of troops deployed to secure the ceremony. All are reminders of the work ahead and the bitterly divided culture in which that work must take place.

But America's diversity is its strength, and that diversity and strength were on full display Wednesday, more so than any Inauguration Day I've witnessed.

"Somehow we've weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken," Gorman recited, "but simply unfinished."

"And yes," she continued, "we are far from polished, far from pristine. But that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect. We are striving to forge a union with purpose."

Her words were the ceremony's high point. Her message should be the nation's pledge, so that our purpose includes, honors and values the lives of all Americans.

Kilili congratulates Biden and Harris

By GREGORIO KILILI
C. SABLAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Sablan is the CNMI Delegate to U.S. Congress.








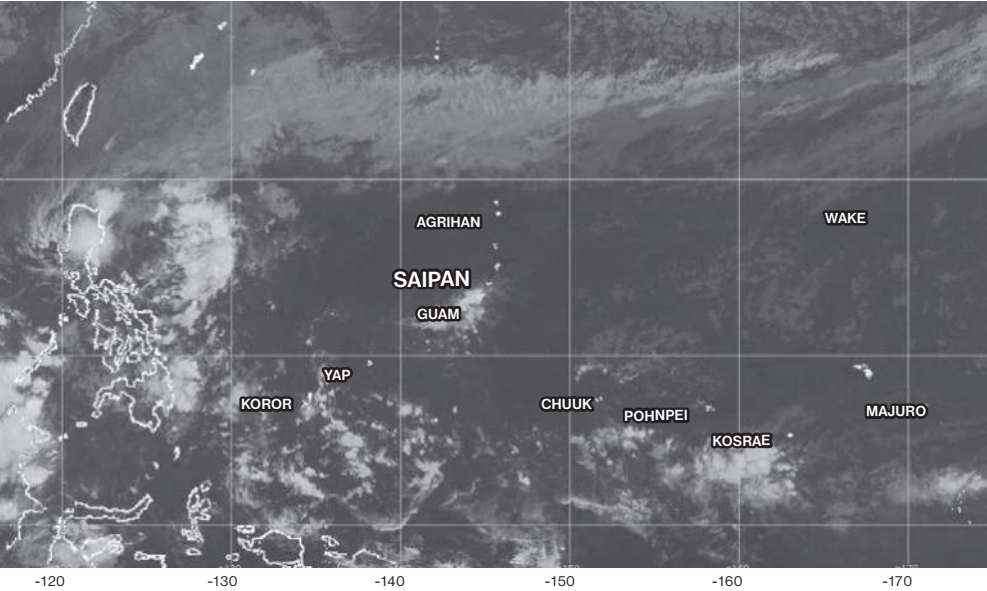
Like so many in our nation, I look forward to the spirit of hopefulness, the commitment to hard work, and the devotion to democracy that our new President and Vice President bring.

"The eloquent young poet laureate at the inauguration said it so well. It may at times over the last weeks and years felt as though America is broken. But, no, we are just unfinished.

"Now is the time, with love in our hearts, to go back to our unfinished work for the good of all."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	
87°	77°	86°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:03 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows scattered showers near and east of Guam and Rota. Tinian and Saipan are north of all the showers visible at this time. The buoys reveal combined seas of 6 to 8 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast trade-wind swell, with some wind waves from nearly the same direction on top.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	84° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:12 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:58 AM	12:51 PM
Saturday	-	1:46 AM	1:30 PM
Sunday	-	2:36 AM	2:13 PM
Monday	-	3:28 AM	3:00 PM
Tuesday	-	4:22 AM	3:51 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	70° / 60°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	42° / 19°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	70° / 62°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	80° / 70°	
London	Partly Cloudy	45° / 35°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	63° / 48°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	78° / 58°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77° / 63°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	44° / 31°	
Osaka	Showers	56° / 46°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 39°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	56° / 48°	
Rome	Rain	58° / 47°	
Salem	Rain	58° / 41°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	55° / 44°	
Seoul	Cloudy	47° / 35°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	60° / 45°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	47° / 28°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:08 AM	High Tide	1.26	
7:54 AM	Low Tide	1.01	
2:05 PM	High Tide	1.76	
9:50 PM	Low Tide	0.33	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable

1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A cult favorite among Chinese food enthusiasts, Shin Restaurant has moved from its old location on the second floor of Pacific Mart to across Beach Road where Eastern Seafood used to be.

To commemorate the move and the subsequent renaming to New Shin Restaurant, chef Yan Jiagui has prepared four different set meals—pork short ribs, garlic roasted chicken, garlic pork spareribs, and grilled beefs ribs at only \$11.95 each. Two more less expensive set meals are on the menu—orange chicken and sweet and sour pork that cost only \$9.95 each. All set meals come with soup, fried rice, a side order of vegetables, and unlimited refills of hot tea.

Yan said his technique and skill with the wok set his food apart from other Chinese restaurants on Saipan. “My food is not salty at all as I always bring out the natural flavor of the ingredients in the dish. I never use MSG and use very little oil and that makes my food healthier and easier to eat compared to other Chinese restaurants on Saipan.”

And it shows in his gastronomic masterpieces, as New Shin Restaurant’s garlic roasted chicken is crunchy yet juicy and good to the last bite. His pork short ribs are equally divine with the sweetness of the meat enhanced many fold by Yan’s expert cooking.

“Real Chinese food in Hong Kong don’t rely much on seasoning and that’s what I always strive for,” he said.

Originally from Guanxi Province in China, Yan is self-taught and has over 30 years’



PHOTOS BY MARK RABAGO
New Shin Restaurant has moved to the old Eastern Seafood location beside I Love Saipan along Beach Road in Garapan.

New Shin Restaurant relocates across the street

experience in the kitchen, with 15 of those spent on island.

Another favorite, especially of Filipino customers, is Yan’s Chinese sour soup. He said some of his Pinoy customers even said it’s better than their *sinigang*, which is the tamarind-flavored sour soup of the Philippines.

Yan’s beef dishes are also so tender that not a few customers have asked if they’re using Certified Angus Beef. Yan’s coy reply, “It’s all in the cooking technique.”

He also said the food at the Shin Restaurant is so good that a Guam hotel executive who frequently flies to Saipan has become a regular customer and has sworn off other Chi-



New Shin Restaurant’s garlic roasted chicken.

nese restaurants on island. That particular customer even said Chinese restaurants in Guam pale in comparison to Shin Restaurant.

First established in 2017, Shin Restaurant originally catered to 90%-95% tourists.

“[It was] seldom [that] local people patronized us because the old location was on the second floor and there was not much parking.”

That marketing strategy went out the window when the COVID-19 pandemic shut

down the steady flow of tourists to the island. After closing for two months beginning when the CNMI got its first coronavirus cases in March, Yan pivoted to attracting local diners to the restaurant.

Luckily, the old Eastern Seafood location was available and

Yan quickly moved to lease the property and New Shin Restaurant finally opened its doors earlier this month and has steadily attracted local customers, including many Filipinos and Chinese nationals who have made Saipan their second home.

“As long as the food is good, we can still get a lot of local customers—locals and resident Filipinos and Chinese. My thinking is let them try the food even just one time and I guarantee they will come back. Since reopening in this new location as New Shin Restaurant, no one has said our food is bad and they’re not coming back. We’ve opened this new restaurant for everybody and we all want them to try our healthy but tasty Chinese food,” said Yan.

Aside from the affordable \$11.95 and \$9.95 set menu, New Shin Restaurant is also currently offering a 30% off promotion in its ala carte menu.

Located beside I Love Saipan in Garapan, New Shin Restaurant sits 70 people under COVID-19 guidelines and is open everyday from 6am to 2pm and 5pm to 9pm. For more information or for reservations, call 233-8778 or 287-4577. They can also be reached through their Facebook account: New Shin Restaurant.



New Shin Restaurant’s pork short ribs.

Biden plans temporary halt of oil activity in Arctic refuge

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—President Joe Biden’s administration announced plans Wednesday for a temporary moratorium on oil and gas leasing in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge after the Trump administration issued leases in a part of the refuge considered sacred by the Indigenous Gwich’in.

The plans, along with other executive actions, came on Biden’s first day in office.

Issuing leases had been a priority of the Trump administration following a 2017 law calling for lease sales, said Lesli Ellis-Wouters, a spokesperson for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in Alaska.

The agency held the first

lease sale for the refuge’s coastal plain on Jan. 6. Eight days later, Ellis-Wouters said, it signed leases for nine tracts totaling nearly 685 square miles (1,770 square kilometers). The issuance of leases was not announced publicly until Tuesday, President Donald Trump’s last full day in office.

Ellis-Wouters said by email Wednesday that she has not “received anything on executive orders that pertain to the ANWR lease sales.”

E. Colleen Bryan, a spokesperson for the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, said the state corporation, which was issued seven leases and was the main

bidder in the lease sale, “can’t speculate what may happen with the new administration.”

Biden has opposed drilling in the region, and drilling opponents hope the executive action is a step toward providing permanent protections, which Biden called for during the presidential campaign.

His order cites “alleged legal deficiencies” underpinning the oil and gas lease program in calling on the Interior secretary to, “as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, place a temporary moratorium on all activities of the Federal Government” related to implementing the program. The order also calls on the

secretary to review the program and potentially conduct a “new, comprehensive” environmental review.

Pending lawsuits challenge the adequacy of the environmental review process undertaken by the Trump administration.

The fight to open the coastal plain to drilling goes back decades, with the state’s Republican congressional delegation hailing the issuance of leases as “significant and meaningful for Alaska’s future.” They criticized on Wednesday the planned moratorium.

U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan said in a statement that Americans did not give Biden “a mandate to kill good-paying jobs

and curry favor with coastal elites.”

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski said “significant progress” has been made in the past month, with the lease sale and issuance of leases. “The Biden administration must faithfully implement the law and allow for that good progress to continue,” she said in a statement.

Gov. Mike Dunleavy, a Republican, said the state “does responsible oil and gas development in the Arctic better than anyone, and yet our economic future is at risk should this line of attack on our sovereignty and well-being continue.”

Oil has long been the economic lifeblood of Alaska, and drilling supporters have viewed development as a way

to boost oil production that is a fraction of what it was in the late 1980s, and to generate revenue and create or sustain jobs.

Drilling critics have said the area off the Beaufort Sea provides habitat for wildlife including caribou, polar bears, wolves and birds—and should be off limits to drilling. The Gwich’in have raised concerns about impacts on a caribou herd on which they have relied for subsistence.

“It is so important that our young people see that we are heard, and that the president acknowledges our voices, our human rights and our identity,” Bernadette Demientieff, executive director of the Gwich’in Steering Committee, said in a statement.

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A little after you pass the San Jose intersection north bound on Beach Road, a colored and bright signage will catch your eye across the sea that reads Bolis R Us II. For old-timers, they know that this restaurant carries the local flavor they crave for and love. For the young generation, Bolis R Us is an opportunity for them to find out what food and taste their grandparents or parents grew up with.

Owner Tracy Pangelinan said that opening Bolis R Us is a tribute to her father, the late Herman Pangelinan. "Bolis is my father's family name... he passed away in 1993 and bringing all this together feels like I just want to bring him back—his memories and the food that he prepared and cooked... My dad is known for his empanadas... he and his cousin also cooked other dishes and started selling it... I believe this was in 1973," she said.

"The dishes were prepared in humble and simple means—just lunches wrapped in foil... Many people recall those days and wishing we could bring back those days... especially the jukebox that everybody loved in Pangelinan's Store



BEA CABRERA

Bolis R Us II is located along Beach Road beside Char's Grocery. A perfect location for fresh empanadas while watching the ocean.

Bolis R Us II: Continuation of a legacy

in Chalan Kanoa (now Terry's Snack Bar)," she added.

The Bolis R Us' signature empanada is filled with corned beef. They are fried, tasty, and can be eaten as a meal or a snack. "This is my dad's original recipe and we did not change anything... we cook it fresh everyday, put 35 to 40 pieces of them on a tray and sometimes we sell seven batches of those in one day,"

Pangelinan said.

"To be honest, I eat an empanada every single day. People would think I would be over it by now or just eat once in a while but I do have one everyday. I never get tired of it because I grew up with that. My dad used to make me giant empanadas. I like it with cinnamon sugar and I am really glad the community loves its taste to this day," she added.

Bolis R Us II is also a place where you can dine-in or take-out. Aside from empanadas, they offer a wide range of dishes and snacks that makes them your new one-stop shop in satisfying that craving for any dish—Japanese, Filipino, and most especially local food.

"We have local soul food like chicken curry, Chamorro beef steak, and another one of my dad's recipe, beef with Ragu sauce... No one really sells local food here so I want people to know they can find it here," Pangelinan said.

"I get compliments from people that come here like that it feels so good in here, the ambiance is perfect and I attribute that for my love

of the ocean... I'm a master trained diver and a recipient of the 2020 Environmentalist Award as I have led clean-up drives on the beach and ocean that is why I chose a nautical theme for the restaurant," Pangelinan added.

Bolis R Us II follows health and safety protocols, have lunch specials that start at \$5 for one choice, \$6.50 for two choices, and \$7.50 for three choices, and according to Pangelinan, future plans include opening other Bolis R Us II branches on Saipan. "A restaurant in Chalan Kanoa in mid-February when students come back for school in Hopwood and in two months I plan to open in Ga-

rapan with a drive-thru... I also plan to be at every corner, just sort of to remind people 'hey, are you hungry yet?' People could be driving with no motivation to cook at home because they are probably tired from work and they see me and think 'why not order from Bolis?' she said.

"We are also working to be a part of the ProaPerks program of the Northern Marianas College. I was a teacher and I know offering discounts or incentives to students help them get motivated to do their best and it is also like a reward because these students work so hard," she added.

Overall, Pangelinan grew up with the love for local food from her father and a keen business sense from her mother who owns Terry's Snack Bar in Chalan Kanoa. "This is a dream come true for me... I used to just sell dinner at my sister's restaurant in Kagman when I didn't have this yet... We opened in early January... I feel really good and glad of God's glory," she said.

"I wish people that have been to the restaurant would tell other people what we have here... what we are working hard for... I say this because they trust us as we've been around forever and we will take care of them," she added.

Bolis R Us is located along Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau beside Char's Grocery. They are open Monday-Saturday from 7am to 9pm. For more information, call (670) 235-6685 or (670) 285-6684. They are also on Facebook and Instagram: BolisRUs II.



BEA CABRERA

Jayda Pangelinan and Alexi Rebuenog carry a tray of corned beef empanadas that are Bolis R Us II's specialty.

Yellen taps Obama administration vets for key Treasury roles

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Treasury Department announced Wednesday that Didem Nisanci will serve as Janet Yellen's chief of staff once Yellen is confirmed by the Senate.

Nisanci, who most recently served as global head of public policy at Bloomberg L.P., was previously the chief of staff for the Securities and Exchange Commission in the Obama-Biden administration.

Jason Leibenluft will serve as counselor to the Treasury secretary after having been a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. He worked during the Obama-Biden administration in a variety of roles, including deputy director of the National Eco-

nomics Council.

Other staff picks, according to Treasury, include Calvin Mitchell as the assistant secretary for public affairs. Mitchell previously served in Treasury's public affairs office during the Obama-Biden administration and also served in various government communications roles at the State Department, the National Security Council and the White House press office.

Alfred I. Johnson, who served as a special assistant to the White House chief of staff in the Obama-Biden administration, will be a deputy chief of staff at Treasury, as will Julie Brinn Siegel, who previously served as senior counsel for economic policy for Sen.

Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.

Marti Adams, who had been at the global advisory firm Brunswick Group, will be Yellen's executive secretary, while Ryan Jacobs will be Yellen's chief speechwriter and a senior advisor. Jacobs had been with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation where he was head speechwriter where he helped the foundation respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

Yellen, who is expected to win quick Senate confirmation, told the Senate Finance Committee at her confirmation hearing on Tuesday that the administration considered it essential for Congress to quickly pass another \$1.9 trillion virus relief package.

United Airlines posts \$1.9 billion loss in pandemic-laden 4Q

United Airlines said Wednesday that it finished one of the worst years in its history by losing \$1.9 billion in the last three months of 2020, and it predicted more of the same in the first quarter of this year.

The loss was wider than analysts expected. The number of U.S. airline passengers had been building slowly since May but was hammered again when COVID-19 cases began surging in the fall, causing health experts to beg people to stay home.

United lost \$7.1 billion in 2020, an amount exceeded only in 2005, when bankruptcy-related costs pushed the company to a \$21 billion loss. Including debt and severance payments, the airline burned through \$33 million in cash per day.

Revenue plunged 69% in the fourth quarter compared with a year earlier. United predicted a similar decrease—between 65% and 70%—in the

first quarter of 2021, a slightly more pessimistic view than the one expressed by Delta Air Lines last week.

Analysts believe that Americans who have been cooped up since March are eager to travel again once it is safer. But the slow pace of vaccinating Americans against COVID-19 and concern about new variants of the virus are hurting airline bookings.

Chicago-based United tried to reassure investors that it is laying the groundwork for a gradual recovery once the coronavirus outbreak is contained.

United said that it starting to cut \$2 billion in annual structural costs from its operations. At the same time, the airline expressed confidence that crucial business travel will eventually bounce back, although not as quickly as leisure travel.

The combination will result in higher profit margins

in 2023 than United saw in 2019, before the pandemic, the company predicted.

"Aggressively managing the challenges of 2020 depended on our innovation and fast-paced decision making," CEO Scott Kirby said in a statement. "But, the truth is that COVID-19 has changed United Airlines forever."

Peter McNally, an analyst for market-research firm Third Bridge, said United's revenue forecast for the first quarter "is a little disappointing," and he wants United to say more precisely when it might stop losing money. On the plus side, he noted that United has raised \$26 billion from government and private sources and has nearly \$20 billion in liquidity left to survive the pandemic.

"They are not running out of money," McNally said. "There's one thing we've learned from this crisis: The market doesn't stop giving these airlines money." (AP)

Asia

Indian village cheers for Harris during swearing-in as US VP

THULASENDRAPURAM, India (AP)—Residents of a tiny Indian village surrounded by rice paddies flocked to a Hindu temple, setting off firecrackers and praying and as they watched Kamala Harris, who has strong roots to the village, take her oath of office and become the U.S. vice president on Wednesday.

Groups of women in bright saris and men wearing white dhoti pants watched the inauguration live as reporters broadcast the villager’s celebrations to millions of Indians. The villagers chanted “Long live Kamala Harris” while holding portraits of her and blasted off fireworks the moment she took the oath.

Earlier, the villages adorned their temple with flowers, offering special prayers for Harris’ success. Her maternal grandfather was born in the village of Thulasendrapuram, about 350 kilometers (215 miles) from the southern coastal city of Chennai

“We are feeling very proud that an Indian is being elected as the vice president of America,” said teacher Anukampa Madhavasimhan.

At the prayer ceremony in Thulasendrapuram, the idol of Hindu deity Ayyanar, a form of Lord Shiva, was washed with milk and decked with flowers by a priest. Then the village reverberated with the sound firecrackers as people held up posters of Harris and clapped their hands.

Harris made history Wednesday as the first Black, South Asian and female U.S. vice president and what made her special for the village is her Indian heritage.

Harris’ grandfather was born more than 100 years ago. Many decades later, he moved to Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu state. Harris’ late mother was also born in India, before moving to the U.S. to study at the University of California. She married a Jamaican man, and they named their daughter Kamala, a Sanskrit word for “lotus flower.”

In several speeches, Harris has often spoken about her roots and how she was guided by the values of her Indian-born grandfather and mother.

So when Joe Biden and Harris triumphed in the U.S. election last November, Thulasendrapuram became the center of attention in entire India. Local politicians flocked to the village and young children carrying placards with photos of Harris ran along the dusty roads.

Then and now, villagers set off firecrackers and distributed sweets and flowers as a religious offering.

Posters and banners of Harris from November still adorn walls in the village and many hope she ascends to the presidency in 2024. Biden has skirted questions about whether he will seek reelection or retire.

“For the next four years, if she supports India, she will be the president,” said G Manikandan, who has followed Harris politically and whose shop proudly displays a wall calendar with pictures of Biden and Harris.

On Tuesday, an organization that promotes vegetarianism sent food packets for the village children as gifts to celebrate Harris’ success.

China records new cases, defends response

BEIJING (AP)—China’s capital, Beijing, recorded seven more coronavirus cases on Wednesday amid a lingering outbreak in the country’s north.

Another 46 were recorded in Jilin province, 16 in Heilongjiang on the border with Russia, and 19 in Hebei, the province surrounding Beijing.

China has now recorded a total of 88,557 cases since the virus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019, with 4,635 deaths.

China is hoping to vaccinate 50 million people against the virus by mid-February and is also releasing schools early and telling citizens to stay put during the Lunar New Year travel rush that begins in coming days.

A panel of experts commissioned by the World Health Organization criticized China and other countries this week for not moving to stem the initial outbreak of the coronavirus earlier, prompting Beijing to concede it could have done better but also to defend its response.


“As the first country to sound the global alarm against the epidemic, China made immediate and decisive decisions and insisted on timely detection, reporting, isolation, and treatment despite comprehensive information at the time. We have gained time to fight the epidemic and reduce infections and deaths,” Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told reporters on Tuesday.

“We are firmly opposed to politicizing issues related to virus tracing, as this will not help the international community to unite and cooperate in the fight against the pandemic,” Hua said.


A team of experts from WHO are quarantined in Wuhan ahead of beginning field visits aiming to shed light on the origins of the virus that is thought to have jumped to humans from animals, possibly bats.

Other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

- India has begun supplying coronavirus vaccines to its neighboring countries, as the world’s largest vaccine making nation strikes a balance between maintaining enough doses to inoculate its own people and helping developing countries without the capacity to produce their own shots. India’s Foreign Ministry said the country will send 150,000 doses of the AstraZeneca/Oxford University vaccine, manufactured locally by Serum Institute of India, to Bhutan and 100,000 to the Maldives on Wednesday. Vaccines will also be sent to Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and the Seychelles in coming weeks, the ministry said. Spokesman Anurag Srivastava said the government will ensure that domestic vaccine makers have adequate stocks to meet domestic needs as they supply other countries in the coming months. Of the more than 12 billion coronavirus vaccine doses expected to be produced this year, rich countries have already bought about 9 billion, and many have options to buy even more. This means that Serum Institute, which has been contracted by AstraZeneca to make a billion doses, is likely to make most of the vaccines that will be used by developing nations.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-21-015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
FOR THE
WATER & WASTEWATER
CERTIFIED OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for Professional Services for the Water & Wastewater Certified Operator Training Program for the islands Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the US Department of Interior-Office of Insular Affairs.

Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “*CUC-RFP-21-015, Professional Services for the Water & Wastewater Certified Operator Training Program*” to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 19, 2021**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal under the contract. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Request for Proposals should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proposer, awarded a contract.


This Request for Proposals does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director’s approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 29, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Vivian Santos, Human Resources Manager via email-Vivian.santos@cucgov.org; Francisco Matsunaga, HR Generalist, via email francisco.matsunaga@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Support Technician via email- marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
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AMENDMENT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TINIAN DIAMOND CASINO, RESTAURANT, & SUITES BUILDINGS
WITH AN ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM
COASTAL PERMIT NO. TMS-2020-X-082

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Tinian Diamond Casino, Restaurant, and Suites Building with an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) in San Jose, Tinian.

The Bridge Investment Group, LLC is proposing to construct the Tinian Diamond Suite building on Lot No. 080 T 18, an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System on Lot No. 080 T 06, and to include the Tinian Diamond Casino operations within the Tinian Ferry Terminal building on Lot No. 016 T 01. The Tinian Diamond Casino and Ferry Terminal building will include a 64-seating restaurant with a kitchen facility, VIP restaurant and gaming center, security rooms, and two (2) VIP rooms at the Mezzanine level. The project is located at the Tinian Harbor in San Jose, Tinian.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Thursday, February 4, 2021, at 5:00 PM**. The venue for this hearing will be conducted at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, in San Jose, Tinian.

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, this public hearing will be conducted via video conferencing through Google Meet (meeting code: *bed-urrrw-ukr*).

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Tinian Diamond Casino, Restaurant, & Suite Buildings, and OWTS project.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

World

World hopes for renewed cooperation with US under Biden

MEXICO CITY (AP)—World leaders welcomed into their ranks the new U.S. President Joe Biden, noting their most pressing problems, including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, require multilateral cooperation, an approach his predecessor Donald Trump ridiculed.

Many expressed hope Biden would right U.S. democracy two weeks after rioters stormed the Capitol, shaking the faith of those fighting for democracy in their own countries.

Governments targeted and sanctioned under Trump embraced the chance for a fresh start with Biden, while some heads of state who lauded Trump's blend of nationalism and populism were more restrained in their expectations.

But the chance to repair frayed alliances and work together on global problems carried the day.

China, whose U.S. relations nosedived due to widespread frustration in Washington over its human rights record and accusations of technology theft, expressed cautious hope about the change in the White House.

"China looks forward to working with the new administration to promote sound & steady development of China-U.S. relations and jointly address global challenges in public health, climate change & growth," China's ambassador to the U.S., Cui Tiankai, tweeted.

Biden "understands the importance of cooperation among nations," said former Colombian president and Nobel Peace Prize winner Juan Manuel Santos, who left office in 2018. "As a matter of fact, if we don't cooperate – all nations – to fight climate change, then we will all perish. It's as simple as that."

French President Emmanuel Macron and Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama were among those welcoming U.S. attention to climate change. After Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Paris climate accord, Biden reversed the move in the first hours of his presidency Wednesday.

With Biden, "we will be stronger to face the challenges of our time. Stronger to build our future. Stronger to protect our planet," Macron wrote on Twitter. "Welcome back to the Paris Agreement!"

Other European allies saw a chance to come in out of the cold after strained relationships with the Trump administration.

European Council President Charles Michel said trans-Atlantic relations have "greatly suffered in the last four years" while the world has become less stable and less predictable.

"We have our differences and they will not magically disappear. America seems to have changed, and how it's perceived in Europe and the rest of the world has also changed," added Michel, whose open criticism of the Trump era contrasted with the silence that mostly reigned in Europe while the Republican leader was in the White House.

In Ballina, Ireland, where Biden's great-great-grandfather was born in 1832, a mural of a smiling Biden adorned a wall in the town, where some of the president's relatives still live.

"As he takes the oath of office, I know that President Biden will feel the weight of history — the presence of his Irish ancestors who left Mayo and Louth in famine times in search of life and hope," Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who formed close ties with Trump, noted a personal friendship with Biden and said he looked forward to working together to further strengthen the U.S.-Israel alliance.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who has accused Trump of unfair bias toward Israel with policies like moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, expressed hope for a more even-handed approach from Biden. He urged "a comprehensive and just peace process that fulfills the aspirations of the Palestinian people for freedom and independence."

In Latin America, Biden faces immediate challenges on immigration, and the leaders of the two most populous countries — Brazil and Mexico — were chummy with Trump. The Trump administration also expanded painful sanctions against governments in Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

In Venezuela, President Nicolás Maduro's government urged dialogue with the Biden administration, while hoping the new president abandons the avalanche of damaging sanctions Trump imposed to attempt a regime change.

Some Venezuelans, however, like retired accountant Jesús Sánchez, 79, said he was disappointed to see Trump leave power. Trump backed opposition leader Juan Guaidó, giving Venezuelans

like him hope that Maduro's days in power were numbered.


Carlos Vecchio, Guaidó's envoy in Washington who the U.S. recognizes as Venezuela's ambassador, tweeted photos of himself at Biden's inauguration. The invitation to attend was touted by Venezuela's opposition as evidence the Biden administration will continue its strong support and resist entreaties by Maduro for dialogue that the U.S. has strenuously rejected until now.

Cuba's leaders perhaps have a more realistic hope for improved relations: Biden was in the White House for the historic thaw in relations in 2014, and various officials expressed willingness to reopen a dialogue with Washington if there was respect for Cuba's sovereignty.

President Miguel Díaz-Canel railed against Trump via Twitter, citing "more than 200 measures that tightened the financial, commercial and economic blockade, the expression of a despicable and inhuman policy."

In Mexico, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who cultivated an unexpectedly friendly relationship with Trump and was one of the last world leaders to recognize Biden's victory, read from a letter he sent to Biden in 2012, calling for reorienting the bilateral relationship away from security and military aid and toward development.

He urged Biden to implement immigration reform, and added: "We need to maintain a very good relationship with the United States government and I don't have any doubt that it's going to be that way."




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Department of Labor

Office of the Secretary

1356 Mednilla Avenue | Capitol Hill | P.O. Box 10007 | Saipan, MP 96950

Phone: (670) 664-3196 | Fax: (670) 664-3197 | Web: www.marianaslabor.net



NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS

In accordance with Employment Rules and Regulations of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC), the CNMI Department of Labor (CNMI DOL) mandates compliance of the following for all eligible private sector employers. Failure or refusal to comply is cause for CNMI DOL to issue a Notice of Violation to the employer which may result in fines and other sanctions following a due process hearing in the Administrative Hearing Office.

1. Post Job Vacancy Announcement (JVA) on CNMI DOL website

An employer who intends to employ a foreign national worker, transitional worker, or nonimmigrant alien on a full-time basis (under any new employment arrangement, any renewal of any existing employment arrangement, or any transfer) must post a Job Vacancy Announcement (JVA) on the CNMI DOL website at www.marianaslabor.net. NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(a). No waiver is available for the job vacancy announcement requirement. NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(e).

2. Submit Total Workforce Listing

Each business employer *shall report quarterly*, as of the last day of the calendar quarter, *the number of employees, job classification, and the hourly wage* of employees for whom wages were paid during the quarter. NMIAC § 80-20.1-505(b) (emphasis added). The Department requires employers to present this information in a document called "Total Workforce Listing," *via email: documents@marianaslabor.net (Excel format).*

The Total Workforce Listing is due each quarter:

1st Quarter (January – March)due on April 30

2nd Quarter (April – June)due on July 31

3rd Quarter (July – September)due on October 31

4th Quarter (October - December)due on January 31

Attention:

The Total Workforce Listing for the 4th Quarter 2020 is due on or before January 31, 2021. Online submissions may be emailed to documents@marianaslabor.net (in Excel format), delivered to the DOL Administrative Services Office, Building #1356, Capitol Hill, or faxed to (670) 664-3197. Online submissions are preferable.

3. Adhere to Workforce Participation Minimum Percentage requirement

Any employer, unless exempt, who employs workers on a full-time basis must certify that 30% or more of its full-time employees are U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, and/or CNMI permanent residents. 3 CMC § 4525 and NMIAC § 80-20.1-210(c)(3). Failure to maintain a minimum percentage of 30% will result in a Notice of Violation filed against the employer.

4. Submit new or updated Workforce Plan

All employers who employ nonimmigrant alien workers, unless exempt, must submit a new or updated Workforce Plan every twelve months. NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(c). A workforce plan shall identify specific positions currently occupied by a foreign national worker and timetable for accomplishing the replacement of the foreign national worker with qualified U.S. citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and U.S. permanent residents until the workforce participation objective is met. NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(b). *The Workforce Plan form is available on the CNMI DOL website under Forms & Publications at www.marianaslabor.net.*

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS WITH MULTI-ISLAND JOB SITES

An employer with multiple island job sites in any of the Mariana Islands must submit a separate report for each island. For example, if an organization employs workers for job sites in Saipan and Tinian then the employer must file two separate quarterly compliance reports (one for Saipan and another for Tinian).

Rota employers must email the Total Workforce Listing and Workforce Plan to documents@marianaslabor.net *and* dolrota@gmail.com OR delivered to the Rota DOL Field Office at Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Building, Tatachong Village.

Tinian employers must email the Total Workforce Listing and Workforce Plan to documents@marianaslabor.net *and* tinianlabordepartment@gmail.com OR delivered to the Tinian DOL Field Office at Edu's Plaza, 1st Floor, San Jose Village.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL EMPLOYERS WHOSE OPERATIONS WERE AFFECTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

If any employee is currently on furlough, working reduced hours, or laid off as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, please indicate the employment status on the Total Workforce Listing. See example below.

EMPLOYEE NAME	POSITION	EMPLOYMENT STATUS	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP	VISA TYPE/CLASS	DATE HIRED	DATE ENDED	COMMENT
Australia, Amanda	Chief Financial Officer	FT	Australia	L1-A	11/6/2018		Furlough-COVID 19
China, Chelsea	Operations Agent	FT	China	EAD	12/1/1999		Furlough-COVID 19
England, Edward	Cargo Agent	FT	UK	CW-1	9/2/2017		Reduced Hours-COVID 19
France, Freddy	Cargo Agent	FT	France	CW-1	7/6/2018		Reduced Hours-COVID 19
Guam, Gabby	Flight Attendant	FT	US	US	3/8/2017		
Japan, Jackie	Ticket Agent	FT	Japan	LPR	5/7/2018	4/18/2020	Voluntary Separation
Korea, Ken	Aircraft Mechanic	FT	Korea	CW-1	2/7/2018		
Marianas, Marvin	Chief Executive Officer	FT	US	US	3/24/1976		
Niger, Ned	Airline Pilot	FT	Niger	H-1B	6/10/2018		
Philippines, Phil	Ramp Agent	FT	Philippines	CW-1	8/1/2018		
Qatar, Queenie	Flight Dispatcher	FT	Qatar	CW-1	4/6/2017		
Taiwan, Tommy	Aircraft Mechanic	FT	Taiwan	H-1B	10/7/2005		

Off The Wall

Police say thief berated mom for leaving kid in car he stole

BEAVERTON, Ore. (AP)—A car thief who found a toddler in the backseat of a stolen vehicle drove back and chastised the mother for leaving the child unattended before taking off again, police in Oregon said.

The woman went into a grocery store about 15 feet (5 yards) from the car Saturday, leaving her 4-year-old child inside with the engine running and the vehicle unlocked, said Beaverton police spokesman Officer Matt Henderson.

A store employee told authorities the woman was in

the market for a few minutes before someone began driving away with the SUV.

Once the thief realized the toddler was in the backseat, he drove back, berated the woman for leaving her child unattended, told the woman to take the child and drove away in the stolen vehicle.

"He actually lectured the mother for leaving the child in the car and threatened to call the police on her," Henderson said. Henderson said the woman did nothing wrong and was within sight and sound of the child. He said the incident

served as a "good reminder to take extra precaution" with children.

"Obviously, we're thankful he brought the little one back and had the decency to do that," Henderson said.

The vehicle was found a few hours later in Portland but police are still searching for the thief. The suspect was said to be in his 20s or 30s with dark brown or black braided hair and a multi-colored face mask.

Police said anyone with information on the theft should contact the department.

Woman ruled dead fights to be declared alive

PARIS (AP)—Frenchwoman Jeanne Pouchain has an unusual problem. She's officially dead. She has been trying for three years to prove that she is alive.

The 58-year-old woman says she lives in constant fear, not daring to leave her house in the village of Saint Joseph, in the Loire region. Authorities seized her car over an unpaid debt she contests and which is at the center of her troubles. She fears the family furniture will be next.

Pouchain's status has prevented her and her husband, who is her legal beneficiary along with her son, from using their joint bank account. Being declared deceased has deprived her of other critical amenities.

"I no longer exist," Pouchain said by telephone. "I don't do anything....I sit on the veranda and write." She called the situation "macabre."

Pouchain's status as deceased is the result of a 2017 Lyon court decision that deemed her dead even though no death certificate was produced. The decision came at the end of a legal dispute with an employee of Pouchain's former cleaning company, who was seeking compensation after losing her job 20



This undated image provided on Jan. 15, 2021 by Pierre-Jean Pouchain shows Jeanne Pouchain.

years ago.

But the initial complaint in France's Prudhomme workers' court misfired, falling on Pouchain, whose lawyer claims her company had no responsibility for the dismissal. A series of legal proceedings, decisions and appeals followed, all the way to the Court of Cassation, France's highest court, which dismissed the case as outside its domain, Pouchain and her lawyer, Sylvain Cormier, said.

According to Pouchain and her attorney, snowballing judicial errors ended with the 2017 ruling by the Appeals Court of Lyon that Pouchain was not among the living. The legal imbroglio is all the stranger because, Pouchain contended, neither she nor her relatives received a summons for the hearing.

Pouchain's husband and son were left with an order to pay 14,000 euros (\$17,000) to the former employee.

Ben & Jerry's enters the pet food business

(AP)—Think your dog deserves dessert? So does Ben & Jerry's.

The venerable Vermont ice cream company said Monday it's introducing a line of frozen dog treats, its first foray into the lucrative pet food market. Doggie Desserts, sold in 4-ounce cups, go on sale in U.S. groceries and pet stores later this month.

The treats come in two flavors: pumpkin with cookies and peanut butter with pretzels. Both are made with

a base of sunflower butter. They're made from the same ingredients Ben & Jerry's uses in its non-dairy human desserts.

Ben & Jerry's is the latest food company to pivot to pets, sensing opportunity as more Americans acquire furry friends. The number of U.S. households with pets rose 6.5% to 84.9 million between 2015 and 2020, according to the American Pet Products Association, a trade group.

General Mills, which

makes Cheerios and Haagen-Dazs ice cream, bought the Blue Buffalo pet food brand in 2018. Jelly maker J.M. Smucker Co. bought Big Heart Pet Brands—which makes Meow Mix and Milk Bone—in 2015. Three years later, Smucker acquired Ainsworth Pet Nutrition, which makes Nutrish brand pet food. And in April, Nestle bought British natural pet food brand Lily's Kitchen. Nestle has owned the Purina brand since 2001.

Science & Technology

RoboKiller app may block good phone calls and junk

Q: My iPhone XS Max uses the RoboKiller app that's supposed to intercept

junk phone calls. I expected it to block the 15 to 25 junk calls I was getting every day, but to let through callers who were in my phone's contact list. Unfortunately, RoboKiller blocks calls from my contacts list and lets the junk calls through. I also can't remove the app from my phone. What's wrong?

A: Many users of the RoboKiller phone app have reported similar problems.

The app's developer has acknowledged there is a flaw in newer versions of RoboKiller. Another source of problems is that RoboKiller must be set up differently in order to work on some cellular phone networks. A third problem is that the app is difficult to remove.

The app's problems revolve around the way it's supposed to work. While calls arrive at your phone via the cellular network, some or all of them are then rerouted over the internet to a RoboKiller server for evaluation. (This is done using VoIP, or Voice over Internet Protocol technology. As a result, the amount of traffic on the internet

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune



Steve Alexander covers technology for the Star Tribune of Minneapolis. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

can affect how fast this routing happens, and the quality of the resulting phone call.) The RoboKiller server determines if the calls forwarded to it are legitimate or unwanted. It sends the legitimate ones back to your phone via VoIP, and sends unwanted calls to RoboKiller's voice mail system.

The developers of RoboKiller said in July that a flaw in the app may be preventing some legitimate calls from reaching the customer's phone, including some calls from people listed in the phone's contacts.

In addition, the phone settings that connect RoboKiller can be troublesome. The preferred setting is called "Conditional Call Forwarding." When it's used, acceptable calls (including from numbers in the phone's "contacts list") immediately go to the phone. Only questionable calls are sent to the RoboKiller server for review.

But some cellular companies (it's unclear which ones) don't support Conditional Call Forwarding. Customers of those companies must use a phone setting called "Unconditional Call Forwarding," in which all incoming calls go directly to the RoboKiller server, which then sends the legitimate ones back to the phone. The app's developers said that calls handled by Unconditional Call Forwarding are those most vulnerable to the app's software flaw.

If you want to get rid of RoboKiller, the biggest problem is that turning off the app or deleting it from your phone may not be enough. You may also have to turn off the call forwarding arrangement that's been set up between your cellular company and the RoboKiller server. (To completely eliminate both the app and the server connection, see tinyurl.com/yxc9zjse).

Q: My internet connection through Mediacom cable TV fails one or more times a week, often at night. The company has been unable to help. What can I do?

A: Here's a list of things to check on a Mediacom internet connection (see tinyurl.com/yya3vtdt). Potential problems include outdated software drivers (for the Wi-Fi router and modem), aging connecting cables and signal interference. You should also read my recent column on potential sources of Wi-Fi interference (see tinyurl.com/y2zf-b2z2). If you can't fix the problem, it's possible that the fault lies in Mediacom's network, not yours.

Science Matters

How roaster dials up coffee's flavor

Most of the taste difference between different roasts of coffee comes from a series of chemical reactions that happen in the coffee beans at certain temperatures.

1 The Maillard chemical reaction (which gives cooked meat its tasty brown surface) is the key step in coffee roasting; sugars and proteins are converted to hundreds of aroma and flavor compounds

2-furfurylthiol
Potent aroma flavor compound gives coffee its "roasted" flavor

Trigonelline
Gives coffee its bitter taste

2 Sugars start caramelizing into buttery or burnt flavors; if roasting is too light in this step, bitter chemicals remain

Diacetyl has a butter or butterscotch flavor

CC(=O)C(C)=O

3 First crack can be heard when steam expands; light roast is finished now

4 Second crack; beans break, darken and release earthy aromas

5 Pyrolysis, a chemical change, releases carbon dioxide. Beans turn medium brown, lose 13% of their weight

The roaster controls these reactions to produce aromatics, acids and other flavor components. They can be balanced and altered to produce the desired flavor, acidity, aftertaste and body in the coffee.

The last steps in making coffee come in the way the roasted beans are stored, ground, brewed and mixed with added flavorings

Terry Miller operates a Diedrich roaster

Source: Robert McGorin; coffee research.org; American Chemical Society
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style



AP
American poet Amanda Gorman reads a poem during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021.

NEW YORK (AP)—The country has a new president and a new literary star. In one of the inauguration's most talked about moments, poet Amanda Gorman summoned images dire and triumphant Wednesday as she called out to the world "even as we grieved, we grew."

The 22-year-old Gorman referenced everything from Biblical scripture to "Hamilton," and at times echoed the oratory of John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. With urgency and assertion she began by asking "Where can we find light/In this never-ending shade?" and used her own poetry and life story as an answer. The poem's very title, "The Hill We Climb," suggested both labor and transcendence.

"We did not feel prepared to be the heirs

*Of such a terrifying hour:
But within it we've found the power*

*To author a new chapter,
To offer hope and laughter*

to ourselves."

It was an extraordinary task for Gorman, who soon after finishing her poem helped inspire—along with Vice President Kamala Harris—the Twitter hashtag "#BlackGirlMagic" and was being praised by former President Barack Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama among others. Gorman is the youngest by far of the poets who have read at presidential inaugurations since Kennedy invited Robert Frost in 1961, with other predecessors including Maya Angelou and Elizabeth Alexander. Mindful of the past, Gorman wore earrings and a caged bird ring—a tribute to Angelou's classic memoir "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"—given to her by Oprah Winfrey, a close friend of the late writer.

"I have never been prouder to see another young woman rise! Brava Brava, @TheAmandaGorman! Maya Angelou is cheering—and so am I," Winfrey tweeted. Gorman was

also praised by "Hamilton" playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda, who tweeted "YES @TheAmandaGorman!!!" Gorman, soon responded: "Thx @Lin_Manuel! Did you catch the 2 @HamiltonMusical references in the inaugural poem? I couldn't help myself!"

Among the "Hamilton" inspirations in her poem: "History has its eyes on us," a variation of the "Hamilton" song "History Has Its Eyes On You."

Gorman, a native and resident of Los Angeles and the country's first National Youth Poet Laureate, told The Associated Press last week that she planned to combine a message of hope for President Joseph Biden's inaugural without ignoring "the evidence of discord and division." She had completed a little more than half of "The Hill We Climb" before Jan. 6 and the siege of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of then-President Donald Trump.

"That day gave me a second wave of energy to finish the poem," Gorman told

Poet Amanda Gorman: 'Even as we grieved, we grew.'

the AP. She had said that she would not mention Jan. 6 specifically, but her reference was unmistakable:

"We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it,

Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.

And this effort very nearly succeeded.

But while democracy can be

periodically delayed,

It can never be permanently defeated."

Frost's appearance at the Kennedy inaugural was a kind of valedictory—he was 86 and died two years later. Gorman's career is just beginning. Penguin Young Readers announced Wednesday that "The Hill We Climb" will be published in a special edition this

spring. Two other books come out in September—the illustrated "Change Sings" and a volume of her inaugural poem and other works. Ceremonial odes often are quickly forgotten, but Angelou's "On the Pulse Of the Morning," which she read at the 1993 inaugural of President Clinton, went on to sell more than 1 million copies as a book.

With passion and fashion, Lady Gaga delivers powerful anthem

A full-throated, supremely confident Lady Gaga belted out the national anthem at President Joe Biden's inauguration in a very Gaga way—with flamboyance, fashion and passion.

The Grammy winner wore a huge dove-shaped brooch and an impressively billowing red sculpted skirt as she sang into a golden microphone, delivering an emotional and powerful rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." She was followed at Wednesday's ceremony by Jennifer Lopez, dressed all in white, who threw a line of Spanish into her medley of "This Land is Your Land" and "America the Beautiful"—a pointed nod to multiculturalism, just two weeks after white supremacists and other violent rioters stormed the Capitol in an effort to undermine the peaceful transfer of power.

And country star Garth Brooks, doffing his black cowboy hat, sang a gospel-tinged,



Lady Gaga sings the national anthem during the 59th Presidential Inauguration at the U.S. Capitol for President-elect Joe Biden in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021. **AP**

soulful a capella rendition of "Amazing Grace," his eyes closed for much of the song. He asked the audience to sing a verse with him: "Not just the people here, but the people at home, to work as one united."

The three superstars were among a slew of glittery celebrities descending on Washington—virtually or in person—to welcome the new administration of Biden and

Kamala Harris, a duo popular in Hollywood, where former President Donald Trump was decidedly not.

But Brooks was careful to call his decision to perform on Wednesday non-political, and in the spirit of unity. Brooks performed during the inaugural celebration of Obama in 2009, but turned down a chance to play for Trump in 2017, citing a scheduling conflict.

Son-in-law's distraction may be more than forgetfulness

DEAR ABBY: I'm responding to the letter from "Open-and-Shut Case in Virginia" (Oct. 20), who complained her son-in-law was "disrespectful" because he didn't close cupboard doors, cereal boxes, etc. My guess is that "Kirk" is displaying classic symptoms of Adult Attention Deficit Disorder (AADD). Multistep tasks may be difficult for him to complete because he is easily distracted.

My husband has this. (It was not diagnosed until he was in his 50s, and I had nearly torn all my hair out.) He still occasionally leaves cabinet doors and drawers open. I tease him that he can't remember to walk from one side of the room to another if he forgets to take his medication.

I strongly recommend that Kirk be evaluated by a behavioral psychologist for AADD. Treatment may save the relationship between Kirk and his in-laws.

WIFE OF A MAN WITH A.A.D.D.

DEAR WIFE: Thank you for your letter. I received a deluge of responses about the letter from "Open-and-Shut Case in Virginia," and the vast majority of the writers mentioned ADD, ADHD and AADD. Many of them recommended patience on the part of the in-laws and volunteered that Kirk may be able to manage the disorder if he is diagnosed.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 73-year-old retired woman who still

maintains contact with a number of old and new friends for movies, dinner, museum visits, etc. Until the COVID virus, we did things often. Now, not so much.

Someone in this group told me that on a couple of occasions, a few of them were not very nice when my name came up. ("Why doesn't she see her grandkids more often?" "She goes out more than most, yet doesn't want to eat in certain restaurants.") My husband and I have a good marriage, but many of these ladies are widowed or divorced. How do you handle backstabbing at this age?

MYSTIFIED IN NEW YORK

DEAR MYSTIFIED: Try not to take it personally. Obviously, these gossips have less to occupy their minds than one would hope. You might also consider seeing these particular individuals even less often than you already do in the age of COVID. If you do, it may give them less ammunition concerning what you do (or don't do) with your time.

DEAR ABBY: I began using a wheelchair two years ago. Since then a dear friend of roughly 30 years has become fixated on my disability. While we once shared a deep, close "BFF" relationship, she now speaks to me in baby talk and only shows an interest in my physical limitations. I feel objectified, hurt and disappointed.

I have mentioned to her that I prefer to focus on other things in life, and she responds with platitudes like, "The body is just

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



a shell," and "All that matters is the heart," but her actions tell me otherwise. I hate to end this friendship, but I am at the end of my rope. Any advice?

PATRONIZED IN ARIZONA

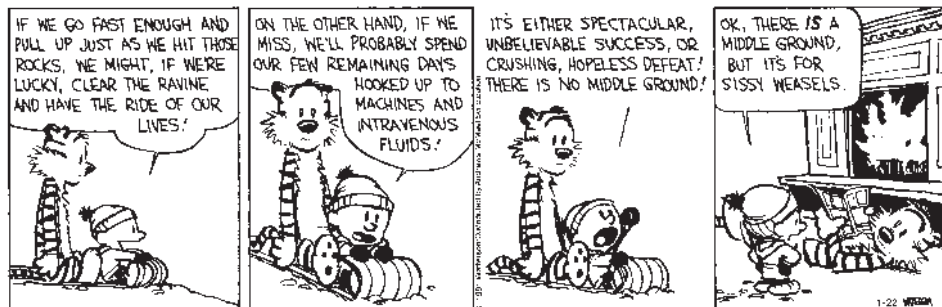
DEAR PATRONIZED: If you haven't done it already, tell this person that you no longer wish to discuss your disability and you prefer she stop raising the subject and treating you differently. Period. If she continues to pursue the subject after that, make your visits less frequent, if they happen at all.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Rushmore face

4 Entreaty

8 Senior moment?

12 Murphy's —

13 Cantaloupe cover

14 Make over

15 Paint removers

17 Currier's partner

18 Place of prayer

19 "Frontline" airo

21 UFO crew

22 Designer Giorgio

26 PC shortcut

29 Author Umberto

30 Foundation

31 Shakespeare title

32 Pub order

33 Gratis

34 "As I see it," to a

35 IV measures

DOWN

2 "Brandenburg Concertos"

3 Ornamental jug

4 "At once!"

5 Script makeup

6 Away from

7 Magazine money-maker

8 Spectrum creator

9 Gun the engine

10 Poetic tribute

11 Yr. parts

16 Levels

20 Buddy

23 "East of Eden" girl

24 — do- well

25 "The — of March"

26 Hurt severely

27 Mater lead-in

28 Drain blockage

29 Golf's Ernie

32 Biting

33 Not as many

35 Espionage org.

36 Coffee bar orders

38 Tubular pasta

39 Sacred song

42 Lane

43 "Rhyme Pays" rapper

44 Trawler gear

45 Retrieve

46 Egg (Pref.)

47 Granola morsel

49 — Mae (Whoopi's role in "Ghost")

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-22

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Beverly Mitchell, 40; Balthazar Getty, 46; Guy Fieri, 53; Diane Lane, 56.

Happy Birthday: Control your emotions. Channel your energy into something creative, meaningful and mindful. How you reach out to others will determine what you receive in return. A unique and informative approach and showing interest in what others do will result in greater freedom to do as you please. Use your intelligence, skills and resourcefulness to gain support and achieve success. Your numbers are 8, 17, 21, 23, 29, 38, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your enthusiasm will attract a lot of attention, but it will also make you subject to those who want to harvest and use your energy to get ahead. Don't take on the responsibilities of others without receiving what you want in return. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Check facts before you pass along information. An exaggerated version of a situation will make you look bad. You can be creative and attract attention and interest without being misleading. Personal improvements and romantic encounters are favored. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Live and learn. Structure your day to include learning something new. Don't let a change someone makes or a problem with an institution throw you off guard. Utilize your time and money carefully, or someone will take advantage of you. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Work in unison with people you know will come through for you. A partnership based on

equality will help you overcome any situation you face that is confusing or unpredictable. Follow your heart and instincts. Romance will enhance your life. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Refuse to let anyone cause instability in your life. Get along with your peers, but don't share personal information that could be used against you. Gravitate toward tried-and-true methods and people you know you can count on for backup. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Enjoy the company of those who share common goals. Listen attentively and compliment freely; you will come away enriched by the conversation and in an excellent position to use the information you gathered to support your efforts. Romance is featured. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep your money and possessions in a safe place. Don't share financial information or leave your passwords on display. Be smart in dealing with someone with whom you are emotionally attached. Invest in you, your home and your future. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A partnership will encounter difficulties. Waffling will be an indication of uncertainty regarding whether you are heading in the same direction. Stick to whoever brings out the best in you. Personal growth and romance are favored. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Conversations will lead to emotional fallout. Think before you speak, and question what's said before you react. An exaggerated opinion will lead to assumptions and premature judg-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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ment. A change of scenery will give you a chance to decipher a situation. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Use your charm to entice others to do things your way. You'll gain support if you do something nice for someone. A positive change at home will further a pursuit that will help you advance. Romance is featured. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refuse to let anyone control what you can do. Gather information, and make a move only if you feel it will benefit you. Helping others is admirable, but not when it's at your expense. Put your needs first. **

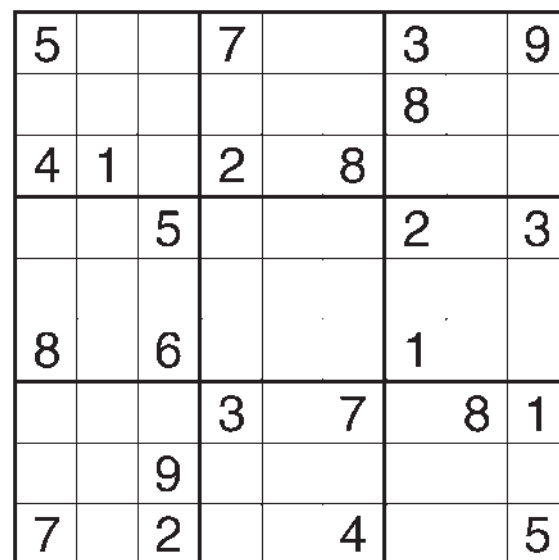
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be a good listener, but don't share personal secrets or get involved in gossip. Review your accomplishments, and consider people you have associated with, and who and what is in your best interest as you head into the future. ****

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, emotional and talented. You are hesitant and mystified. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



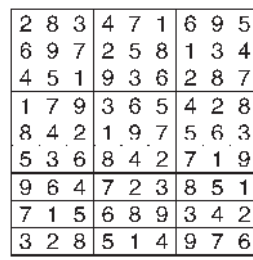
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE

Solution: 9 letters

M T N O N I H C G C O C O V B
E E N I E S O R I N D R E U L
E R D A I E A T O U R S L S O
L C U I G P N C A S T L E S I
C H A T E A U I E N A N T E S
Y A C S L V V V W J N I E N
C U H T N U A A W M O S B A
I M A Y A C C L R O M P U R E
B O N A E S A I N T R U R I L
T N E I C N A A R H X L N D R
E T L C O U R T S G C E D G O
K F R A N C E D R O A N N E D
R E H C H E V E R N Y C E S O
A N G E R S A U M U R E S R O
M S S E R T R O F L O O D S F

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1/22

Agriculture, Ancient, Angers, Anjou, Atlantic, Bicycle, Blois, Bridges, Castle, Caves, Chanel, Château, Chaumont, Cher, Cheverny, Chinon, Coco, Courts, Extravagant, Floods, Food, Fortress, France, French, Gien, Grapes, Indre, Market, Medieval, Meung, Monarch, Nantes, Ocean, Opulence, Orléans, Roanne, Rose, Saint, Saumur, Site, Tours, Usse, Wall, Wine, World

Yesterday's Answer: Reminder

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Cavaliers spoil Nets Big 3 debut in 2OT

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kyrie Irving returned from his personal “pause” to score 37 points in his first game with Kevin Durant and James Harden, but the new-look, star-studded Brooklyn Nets gave up 42 to Collin Sexton and lost 147-135 in double overtime to the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday night.

Sexton scored 15 points in the second OT—most of them over Irving. Sexton made two 3-pointers and fed Taurean Prince for another in a span of 55 seconds to help Cleveland put away Brooklyn.

Durant led Brooklyn with 38 points and Harden added 21. But Brooklyn’s “Big 3” couldn’t do enough to outlast Sexton, who missed Cleveland’s last five games with a sprained ankle.

As he knocked down one big shot after another in the second OT, players on Cleveland’s bench were tackling each other in delight. Cedi Osman added 25 points and Prince—acquired in the four-team deal that brought Harden to Brooklyn—has 17 in his Cavs debut.

The Nets overcame a 13-point deficit in the fourth quarter and tied it at 113-all on Irving’s putback with 1:10 left. Brooklyn had a chance in the closing seconds after Sexton’s

turnover, but couldn’t score.

Warriors 121, Spurs 99

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry had 26 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists, and the Golden State Warriors beat the San Antonio Spurs while honoring new Vice President Kamala Harris and her Oakland roots.

Rookie James Wiseman added 20 points, six rebounds and four assists, and Draymond Green dished out six of the Warriors’ 31 assists. Golden State made it consecutive impressive wins after erasing a 14-point deficit in the fourth quarter of a 115-113 road victory against the Lakers on Monday.

Dejounte Murray scored 22 points for the Spurs, who had won the past three meetings with the Warriors and five of six.

76ers 117, Celtics 109

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 42 points and 10 rebounds, Tobias Harris added 22 points and the 76ers beat Boston.

Embiid and topped 40 points for the second time in three games. He shot 12 of 19 from the floor (one 3-pointer) and was 17 of 21 from the free-throw line. He did it in 34 minutes and scored 20 points in a half (22 in the first) for the fifth time this season.

Ben Simmons had 11 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

Hawks 123, Pistons 115, OT

In Atlanta, Trae Young scored 38 points, John Collins had 31 and the Hawks rallied to beat Jerami Grant and Detroit.

Grant had a career-high 32 points, including all of Detroit’s nine points in overtime, to continue his hot start to the season. But the Pistons fell to 3-11, the worst record in the Eastern Conference.

Clint Capela had 27



points and a career-high 26 rebounds for Atlanta, the NBA’s first 25-25 game since Karl-Anthony Towns (27-27) on Jan. 12, 2019.

Mavericks 124, Pacers 111

In Indianapolis, Kristaps Porzingis had season highs of 27 points and 12 rebounds to help Dallas beat Indiana.

Luka Doncic added 13 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists, and Dallas snapped its first three-game losing streak

in almost two years.

The short-handed Pacers have lost two straight by double digits, their two most-lopsided losses of the season. Malcolm Brogdon had 26 points, and Domantas Sabonis had 25 points and 10 rebounds.

Magic 97, Timberwolves 96

In Minneapolis, Cole Anthony hit a hurried 3-pointer at the buzzer and Orlando stunned short-handed Minnesota to

stop a six-game losing streak.

Nikola Vucevic had 28 points and eight rebounds for Orlando. Evan Fournier added 24 points in his return after missing nine games with lower back spasms.

Minnesota led by 20 before the Magic slowly chipped away in the second half. Jarred Vanderbilt missed a pair of free throws with a chance to ice the game for the Timberwolves. Anthony grabbed the rebound on the final miss, pushed the ball quickly up

Cleveland Cavaliers’ Collin Sexton, left, is up against Brooklyn Nets’ Kyrie Irving during the first half of an NBA game, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, in Cleveland.

court and the rookie drained a contested 3 from the right wing to win the game.

Heat 111, Raptors 102

In Florida, Kendrick Nunn scored 28 points and injury-plagued Miami pulled away in the second half to beat Toronto.

Nunn came off the bench and shot 9 of 12 and had eight rebounds in 35 minutes. Kelly Olynyk added 15 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, and Bam Adebayo had 14 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists.

Fred VanVleet had 24 points and nine assists for the Raptors.

Clippers 115, Kings 96

In Los Angeles, Kawhi Leonard scored 32 points, Paul George added 19 and the Clippers beat the Sacramento Kings for their season-high fifth consecutive victory.

The Clippers handed the Kings a 38-point loss at their place last Friday. A new week didn’t change anything. Sacramento dropped its fourth in a row and sixth in seven games.

De’Aaron Fox scored 17 of his 25 points in the first half for the Kings. Glenn Robinson III added 14 points off the bench.

Suns 109, Rockets 103

In Houston, Deandre Ayton had season highs with 26 points and 17 rebounds and the Phoenix Suns beat the Rockets to end a two-game skid.

The Suns won for the first time since Jan. 9. Between the two losses, they had three games postponed because of health and safety protocols after playing at Washington.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	10	5	.667	0.0
Boston	8	5	.615	1.0
Brooklyn	9	7	.563	1.5
New York	7	8	.467	3.0
Toronto	5	9	.357	4.5

Central

Milwaukee	9	5	.643	0.0
Indiana	8	6	.571	1.0
Cleveland	7	7	.500	2.0
Chicago	6	8	.429	3.0
Detroit	3	11	.214	6.0

Southeast

Atlanta	7	7	.500	0.0
Orlando	7	8	.467	0.5
Miami	6	7	.462	0.5
Charlotte	6	8	.429	1.0
Washington	3	8	.273	2.5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific				
	W	L	PCT	GB
LA Clippers	11	4	.733	0.0
LA Lakers	11	4	.733	0.0
Phoenix	8	5	.615	2.0
Golden State	8	6	.571	2.5
Sacramento	5	10	.333	6.0

Southwest

Memphis	7	6	.538	0.0
San Antonio	8	7	.533	0.0
Dallas	7	7	.500	0.5
New Orleans	5	8	.385	2.0
Houston	4	9	.308	3.0

Northwest

Utah	10	4	.714	0.0
Portland	8	6	.571	2.0
Denver	7	7	.500	3.0
Oklahoma City	6	7	.462	3.5
Minnesota	3	10	.231	6.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twins bolster rotation with \$8M deal for Happ

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Twins and veteran starting pitcher J.A. Happ agreed Wednesday to an \$8 million, one-year contract, according to a person with knowledge of the deal.

The person confirmed the agreement to The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because the team had not announced it.

The 38-year-old Happ spent the past 2 1/3 seasons with the New York Yankees. Acquired from Toronto at the 2018 trade deadline, the left-hander went 7-0 with a 2.69 ERA in 11 starts down the stretch to fin-

ish 17-6. The Yankees then rewarded him with a \$34 million, two-year contract.

Happ will be just the second offseason addition by the Twins, who also added relief pitcher Hansel Robles to the team that has won the AL Central division in each of the last two years. Jake Odorizzi and Rich Hill became free agents, creating openings in the rotation behind José Berrios, Kenta Maeda and Michael Pineda. Minnesota was third in the AL in 2020 with a team ERA of 3.58.

Happ went 12-8 in 2019 and struggled at the start of

the pandemic-delayed 2020 season, prompting the Yankees to skip his turn. Happ gained strength as the year went on and finished with a 2-2 record and 3.47 ERA in nine starts.

His \$17 million option originally would have become guaranteed with 27 starts or 165 innings, but the threshold was reduced to 10 starts with the shortened season. He fell one short.

Happ followed Deivi Garcia as an opener in Game 2 of the AL Division Series for New York and gave up two-run homers to Mike Zunino in the second inning and Manuel Margot

in the third of the 7-5 loss to Tampa Bay. Happ said after the game he would have been more comfortable starting.

An All-Star in 2018, Happ is 123-92 with a 3.98 ERA in 298 starts and 26 relief appearances over 14 major league seasons with Philadelphia (2007-10), Houston (2010-12), Toronto (2012-14, 2016-18), Seattle (2015), Pittsburgh (2015) and the Yankees.

Brantley stays with Astros

In Houston, outfielder Michael Brantley has agreed to a \$32 million, two-year contract with the Astros.

Brantley spent the last two seasons in Houston after playing for Cleveland for his first 10 MLB seasons. Brantley hit .300 with five homers and 22 RBIs in 46 games in last year’s pandemic-shortened season. He had three home runs and 11 RBIs in 13 playoff games last year as the Astros came a win shy of reaching the World Series for the second straight season.

He earned \$5,555,555 in prorated pay from a \$15 million salary as part of a \$32 million, two-year deal that included a \$2 million signing bonus.

Brantley is a four-time All-Star and a 2014 Silver Slugger award winner. He has a .297 average with 114 homers and 640 RBIs in his career.

NFC Finals: So much at stake for Rodgers



GREEN BAY

(AP)—Aaron Rodgers' Green Bay Packers teammates understand what this NFC championship game means to the All-Pro quarterback's legacy.

Rodgers has delivered the kind of season that puts him in contention for a third MVP honor, which would match the total won by Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady.

The Super Bowl count between the two NFC championship game quarterbacks is more one-sided. Brady won six Super Bowl titles and appeared in nine overall while starring for the New England Patriots. Rodgers led the Packers to a Super Bowl crown in the 2010 season, but hasn't brought them back since.

"You look at Brady and everybody wants to make that comparison forever, but it's basically turned into a quarterback stat: Super Bowls," Packers All-Pro wide receiver Davante Adams said.

"If that's what it's going to be, then obviously we're going to put as much as we can on ourselves to try to help him get there and, ultimately, relieve him of the Super Bowls being a thing that hinder him from being the GOAT (greatest of all time). In my mind, he's the GOAT, regardless of how many Super Bowl are won."

Rodgers' brilliant season has included just one outright dud. It occurred the previous time these two teams met.

Green Bay led Tampa Bay 10-0 early in the second quarter back on Oct. 18 until Jamel Dean scored on a 32-yard interception return. Rodgers' next pass was picked off by Mike Edwards and returned 38 yards to the Green Bay 2-yard line, setting up another touchdown.

After the Packers lost 38-10, Rodgers called the performance a wakeup call and kick in the rear for an offense that had moved the ball virtually at will up to that point.

The Packers haven't been held below 22 points since. They'll be chasing their eighth consecutive victory when the Packers (14-3) host the Bucs (13-5) on Sunday.

"We've been playing the right way, and I feel like the way we've been winning has been better than early in the season," Rodgers said. "We've been playing a lot better on both sides of the ball."

The performance at Tampa Bay was out of character for someone who protects the ball so well.

Rodgers completed 45.7% of his passes for 160 yards with two interceptions and no touchdowns that day. In the



AP
Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers signals on the scrimmage line during the second half of an NFL game against the Detroit Lions, Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020, in Detroit.

Bay Buccaneers at midseason and has contributed to the team's run to Sunday's NFC championship game at Green Bay. Tight end Cameron Brate has been a trusted and dependable playmaker for Brady, too.

Then there's Scotty Miller and Tyler Johnson, a couple of late-round draft picks roughly half the age of the 43-year-old quarterback.

Johnson's acrobatic 15-yard catch on third-and-11 and Miller's 29-yard reception on third-and-5 helped Brady position the Bucs for a fourth-quarter field goal that put Tampa Bay ahead for good in last week's 30-20 divisional-round win over the New Orleans Saints.

"He sees those guys work so hard on the practice field and he's got a great rapport with all of them, especially Scotty," coach Bruce Arians said.

"Tyler, very few guys can twist and turn and make that catch. Tom put it out there and he knew Tyler could make that catch. He's got a great, great future."

Throw in running back Ronald Jones—as well as Leonard Fournette and LeSean McCoy, a pair of veterans brought in to bolster depth at the position—and the Bucs have assembled the best group of playmakers Brady has had to work with since 2007, when he was teamed with Hall of Fame receiver Randy Moss in New England.

Without the benefit of normal offseason workouts or pre-season games because of the coronavirus pandemic, Brady and his receivers gradually developed a close relationship and Tampa Bay's offense has really taken off during the six-game winning streak the Bucs (13-5) will take to Lambeau Field this weekend.

"I think we've certainly come a long way. I think we're just going to keep improving. The more we're together, the more we're talking about football, the more we're trying to be on the same page, the better it is," said Brady, who threw for 4,633 yards and 40 touchdowns this season.

"It's a complex game. There's a lot of moving parts, there's a lot of coordination involved between a lot of different positions. The more that I've been around Mike, Chris, Antonio, Scooter (Miller), Tyler, Mick (Jaydon Mickens)—the better it gets," Brady said.

QB Rivers retires after 17 seasons

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—When Philip Rivers first started tossing footballs as a high-school ball boy, he heaved them any way he could. The throwing motion stuck—and success soon followed.

Rivers used that strange, shot put-like style to land a college scholarship, become a first-round draft pick and eventually string together one of the greatest 17-year careers in NFL history. On Wednesday, the 39-year-old Indianapolis Colts quarterback announced his retirement.

"Every year, Jan. 20 is a special and emotional day," Rivers said in a statement posted on the team's website. "It is St. Sebastian's Feast day, the day I played in the AFC championship without an ACL, and now the day that after 17 seasons, I'm announcing my retirement from the National Football League. Thank you God for allowing me to live out my childhood dream of playing quarterback in the NFL. I am grateful to the Chargers for

16 seasons, and the Colts for the 17th season."

Rivers was one of a kind. Between his trademark throwing style and his penchant for trash-talking without cussing, he carved out his own niche in the NFL.

There's no doubt Rivers could sling it.

When he threw for 401 yards and five touchdowns in his second college game, then Indiana Hoosiers coach and future NFL head coach Cam Cameron proclaimed that the North Carolina State freshman had a future in the NFL.

Rivers didn't just play in the league—he created a legacy few achieve.

"We kind of think it started at 5, 6, 7, 8 years old, throwing a regulation-size football," Rivers said before the season opener, explaining how he developed his style. "I couldn't hold it, grip it, palm it, so I had to kind of lay it in my hand a little bit. You're not strong enough to throw it, you push it. Then as you get bigger and stronger,

you change it a little bit. But I think the actual motion kind of stays with what's most comfortable and muscle memory and how you get used to throwing it."

After being selected fourth overall in the 2004 draft, he was immediately traded from the New York Giants to the San Diego Chargers for Eli Manning. Rivers spent the next two seasons backing up Drew Brees in San Diego before taking over as the starter when Brees left in free agency.

In the 2006 season opener, Rivers made his starting debut—and then the next 251 in a row including the playoffs. Nothing kept him out—not the awkward mechanics, not the critics who thought he should retire after his final season with the Chargers, not even the torn anterior cruciate ligament he suffered against the Colts following the 2007 playoffs.

His 240 consecutive regular-season starts was the second-longest streak since 1970, trailing only Brett Favre

(297), and it was one of the few stats Rivers cherished.

"It's certainly important to me and I'm thankful that I've been healthy enough to be out there," Rivers said in November. "I do think there is something about that availability, being there each and every week."

He was more than just dependable, too.

Rivers won 134 career games—No. 2 among quarterbacks without a Super Bowl ring—and was eighth all-time. Only Tom Brady (230), two-time Super Bowl champs Peyton Manning (186) and Ben Roethlisberger (156), Brees (172) and Hall of Famers Favre (186), John Elway (148) and Dan Marino (147) won more regular-season games than Rivers.

He also finished his career ranked fifth in career completions (5,277), yards passing (63,440) and touchdown passes (421), and as the Chargers' franchise record-holder in every major passing category.

Age didn't slow him down, either.

drops back in the pocket he has a bunch of options to attack opposing defenses, including a talented collection of receivers that's possibly the best he's played with in more than a decade—maybe even his entire career.

For starters, Mike Evans is the only player in NFL histo-

ry to begin a career with seven consecutive seasons with at least 1,000 yards receiving, Chris Godwin is a prime target with exceptional hands, and Rob Gronkowski is one of the most prolific tight ends of all time.

Don't forget Antonio Brown, who joined the Tampa

Packers' other 16 games, he has completed 71.9% of his passes for 4,435 yards with 50 touchdowns and three interceptions.

He has been picked off just five times in 562 pass attempts this season (526 in the regular season, 36 in a playoff victory over the Los Angeles Rams).

Brady, Bucs developing chemistry
In Tampa Bay, when Brady

Djokovic hits back over criticisms of quarantine

AUSTRALIA—World No. 1 Novak Djokovic has defended himself against charges of insensitivity towards the people of Melbourne, claiming that his much-criticized letter to Tennis Australia had been “misconstrued”.

Djokovic had come under fire for sending a six-point list of requests to Craig Tiley, tournament director at the Australian Open, concerning the plight of the 72 players serving a 14-day hard quarantine.

The letter began by asking for the players to be granted fitness equipment and “decent food”, before moving on to “reduce the days of isolation” and “move as many players as possible to private houses with a court to train”.

At the time, Victorian premier Daniel Andrews brushed the requests aside, while Australia’s best-known player Nick Kyrgios called Djokovic a “tool”. On social media, many Melburnians complained that the letter showed scant regard for public-health risks.

But Djokovic said on Wednesday that “My good intentions for my fellow competitors in Melbourne have been misconstrued as being selfish, difficult and ungrateful.”

“This couldn’t be farther from the truth. Not every act is taken at its face value and at times when I see the aftermath of things I do tend to ask myself if I should just sit back and enjoy my benefits instead of paying attention to other people’s struggles.”

“However, I always choose to do something and be of service despite the challenging consequences and misunderstandings.”

TENNIS

From Page 24

Race is positive that they will meet the requirements of the task force, as he emphasized that NMITA and its players will follow safety protocols at the duration of the tournament.

Meanwhile, the NMITA congratulated one of its proud products—Carol Lee—for her outstanding debut in the collegiate ranks.

Lee prevailed in her first three singles matches with Georgia Tech in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I and won a tough doubles game against University of Mississippi.

“I watched her game online and it’s great to see how she did well in her debut. In one of her doubles games, their team was one point away from losing the set, but Carol and her teammate came back and won the next four games to take the match. We wish her good luck in her upcoming games,” Race said.



AP
Serbia’s Novak Djokovic stands on the balcony at his accommodation in Adelaide, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021.

Djokovic continued his post over eight pages on Instagram before concluding that “Things in the media escalated and there was a general impression that the players (including myself) are ungrateful, weak and selfish ... None of us ever questioned 14 days of quarantine despite what is being said by media outlets.”

Earlier in the day, Tiley had defended his decision to send Djokovic and a handful of other leading players to play an exhibition event in Adelaide—where they have larger entourages and more favorable training options—while

the bulk of the field have been restricted to just two support-staff members in Melbourne.

“I get the feeling it is perceived as preferential treatment,” Tiley said. “But they’re the top players in the world. My general rule is if you’re at the top of the game, a Grand Slam champion, it’s just the nature of the business. You are going to get a better deal.”

Also in Australia, the leading umpire Carlos Bernardes is believed to have suffered a minor heart attack while in one of the quarantine hotels. He was photographed on a stretcher,

being moved towards an ambulance. Encouragingly, the pictures showed him sitting up and looking alert.

Finally, back in Britain, Judy Murray told the BBC that her son Andy has now completed his ten-day self-isolation period after testing positive for COVID-19. Andy Murray’s management were hoping to speak to Australian Open organizers on Wednesday about the possibility of a late arrival in Melbourne, although time is running out if he is to serve the fortnight’s quarantine period before the tournament starts on February 8.

10 positive cases

Three more people linked to the Australian Open have tested positive for COVID-19 in Melbourne, increasing to 10 those associated with the Grand Slam tennis tournament.

Tennis Australia has declined to provide The Associated Press with a list of the 72 affected players, but many have made their status known via posts on social media.

Victoria state Emergency Services Minister Lisa Neville confirmed the new cases had been detected on Wednesday, adding that authorities are “very confident” one of the cases is a

tennis player who is shedding the virus and is not infectious.

The player is already in hard lockdown as they were on board a flight into Melbourne with another positive case. The other two cases are a player and their support person.

Those 10 positive cases mean a total of 72 players remain in hard lockdown after being deemed close contacts of those positives on three charter flights into Melbourne from Abu Dhabi, Doha and Los Angeles.

There were 17 tournament charter flights which arrived into Australia over three days last week so players and their entourages could undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine ahead of the tournament.

Tiley said 3,200 tests have been conducted on the more than 1,200 players, support staff and tournament officials.

“We’re in our sixth day and so far the numbers have been extremely low and if they are active cases they go straight to the medi-hotel,” he told Australian Broadcasting Corp., on Wednesday.

Tiley criticized what he said were a “minority” of players who continue to complain about the conditions in hotel quarantine on social media. (AP/NBC)

PANGELINAN

From Page 24

Santos, Thomas Reyes, Arthur Jebehn, Vince Torres, and Keoni and Ens Macaranas. In the Expert Open, Pangelinan had the privilege of going up against Cuki and Shane Alvarez, who consistently figured in the Top 2 of the elite division.

“I like racing with the adult

and experienced riders because these races present a challenge to me. They test my skills and motivate me to keep working hard during practice sessions and the actual races,” Pangelinan said.

The San Vicente resident attributed his impressive showing in the MRA races to consistent training and his father, Glenn, who inspired him to try

the sport.

“We train three to four times a week and four to five hours per session,” said Pangelinan, who was into cross country and track running and once played interscholastic soccer before riding a dirt bike and following in the footsteps of his dad. The older Pangelinan participates in Veteran Class events.



TEDDY CORPUZ
Corry Pangelinan (323) races in the Novice Class of the Marianas Racing Association Practice Heat Series 2 at the Kan Pacific grounds.

Meanwhile, races in this weekend’s season-opening will start at 10am with riders competing in two heats in their respective classes. Besides the Novice and Expert Open divisions, MRA will have morning and afternoon heats in the Pee-wee (1 and 2) Minis (1 and 2), Mini ATV (4 wheelers), Power Puff (all girls), Veterans (40 and over), and Big Boy ATV. Points will be awarded to riders based

on their finish in each heat.

Points in the seven-leg season will be compiled to determine the Top 3 riders in each class. MRA will award the No. 1, 2, and 3 plates to the ATV and dirt bike riders at the end of the season, which will be on July 25. The five other legs of MRA’s inaugural season are slated for Feb. 28, March 28, April 25, May 30, and June 27.



JOSEPH CHIN
Corry Pangelinan clears one of the jumps at the CowTown Raceway Park.



Cavaliers
spoil Nets
Big 3 debut
in 2OT

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NFC Finals:
So much at
stake for
Rodgers

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pangelinan stays focused



TEDDY CORPUZ

Corry Pangelinan competes in one of the legs of the Marianas Racing Association Practice Heat Series at the Kan Pacific grounds.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Corry Pangelinan poses for a photo after a practice ride.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sixteen-year-old Corry Pangelinan hopes to deliver under pressure as competition in the Marianas Racing Association Point Race Season starts this Sunday at the CowTown Raceway Park.

Pangelinan will enter the season-opening of the seven-leg series as the heavy favorite in the Novice Class, having dominated the division during the MRA Practice Heat Series held in November until early this month.

"I admit there is pressure, but I will try not to be bothered by that. I will stay focused, keep on doing the things that have worked on my way and hopefully continue getting those wins," said the Marianas High School student.

"My approach for this



weekend's race is like how I started in this sport five or six months ago—pretend that I am alone at the track, racing against myself and do my best not to crash out there," Pangelinan said.

The MHS sophomore won every Novice Class race that MRA held last year and also competed in a couple of events for Expert Open Class.

In the Novice Class, he raced against Gino Dela Cruz, Kier Agda, Byron Castro, Sus

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Tennis group eyeing first tournament next month

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association will be working on holding a tournament next month after suspending competitions since late March last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NMITA president and long-time national coach Jeff Race said they are looking at hosting the 2021 Coconut Tennis Classic on Feb. 6 and 7 and 13 to 15. He added that they will coordinate with the administrator of the American Memorial Park for the venue and will also seek permission from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force to provide CNMI tennis players their first tournament of the season.

The Coconut Tennis Classic is part of NMITA's annual calendar of events and features competition in the U16, U14, U12, and

U10 singles and doubles, men's singles, and the mixed up doubles.

Last year, the NMITA was able to complete the two-weekend tournament and was halfway through the fourth competition (the inaugural Bridge Capital Tennis Classic) of the 2019-2020 season when the pandemic hit the islands and the rest of the world, forcing the cancelation of the remaining events of the year, including the North Pacific Regional Championships in Guam and the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

Events that draw crowd, like sports competitions, are now allowed, but with restrictions and organizers have to seek clearance from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force before they could go ahead with their activities.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

In this 2020 file photo, Wataru Kadokura returns to June Yu during their boys U14 finals match in the White Coconut Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.